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29 October 1976

TRANSLATIONS ON EASTERN EUROPE
POLITICAL, SOCIOLOGICAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
No. 1313

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AUGUST 1976 ISSUE OF SED THEORETICAL JOURNAL REVIEWED

East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 17 Aug 76 p 4

[Helmut Caspar review of East Berlin EINHEIT in German Vol 31 No 8, Aug 76, signed to press 12 Jul 76, pp 835-960. Translations and/or summaries of the articles by the four authors referred to below and by others are published in pages following this review]

[Text] Konrad Naumann, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the SED Berlin Bezirk Management, discusses in his article, "Our Capital City--A Cause for All of Us," in the August issue of EINHEIT the current and future development prospects for our capital. The article states among other things: "The political mission to make, with the fulfillment of the Ninth SED Congress decisions, the continued shaping of the developed socialist society and thus the creation of the basic preconditions for the gradual transition to communism particularly apparent in the development of the capital--this mission continues the process of revolutionary tradition, initiated by the German workers class during the years following the smashing of fascism, on a new and higher level."

"For the new economic build-up we must have a new technological base," a technology "built according to the latest achievements of the most modern science." This demand voiced by V. I. Lenin is the starting point for Harry Nick in his contribution, "Material-Technical Base and Social Progress." The journal this time devotes its column, "The Topic" [pages 860-884] to current problems of the development of the material-technical base in our country. The author notes that the experiences of socialist construction confirm that progress of the socialist system in its entirety decisively depends in all its spheres on this question. With the unfolding of the internal advantages and moving forces of socialism there is at the same time a growing necessity and possibility to further expand this base.

By reprinting the final document and the comment of the SED Central Committee Politburo on the results of the Berlin Conference [pages 842-859], EINHEIT is publishing two important materials on this significant meeting. Other contributions in the August issue deal, among other things, with the connection between scientific-technical progress and humanism (by Herbert Hoerz) and the work of the Norwegian Communist Party (by Gunnar Knutsen).

EAST GERMANY

SECURITY, DEFENSE READINESS OF CITIZENS PRAISED

East Berlin EINHEIT in German Vol 31 No 8, Aug 76 signed to press
12 Jul 76 pp 838-841

[Lead commentary by Dr Werner Huebner, colonel, working group head in
SED Central Committee: "Security Internally and Externally"]

[Text] The communists' humanistic goal that people should live free from fear and worry presupposes that they live securely. "That is why we are creating social security in our country, and externally our policy aims at securing the peace. Security internally and externally -- both belongs together."¹ Those words encompass the historical achievement and the future orientation of the Marxist-Leninist party. They express the inseparable connection between socialism and peace. "Socialism liberates the working people from exploitation and suppression. It needs peace and defends it consistently."²

The balance sheet on GDR social development throughout the last 5 years, drawn up at the Ninth SED Congress, showed how that program principle has been filled with life in the unity of economic and social policy and through our successful foreign and security policy. Life has confirmed the correctness of the policy of our party in its proceeding from the proposition that internal and external development conditions are inseparable from each other. The tempo of development in the implementation of our great and beautiful tasks in the further shaping of the developed socialist society, with the solution of which we at the same time are creating the fundamental preconditions for the gradual transition to communism, principally depends on our own achievements in the field of economy and on our success in forming ever closer interrelationships among all domains of public life. The speed in which these tasks are carried out at the same time depends on the further changes in the international power ratio in favor of peace and on the revolutionary world movement's consolidation all around. It will largely all be dependent on how well we succeed in making irreversible and in further developing the results achieved in the process of relaxation. Internal and external development conditions are inseparable from each other. The struggle for peace and security and for strengthening socialism is a unified struggle, the success of which is also decided by us and our conscious actions.

Through their creative work in all domains of our public life, the GDR citizens have contributed to turning detente into the main trend of international development. Yet they also know that the enemies of peace still command enormous military means and have influence on the political decisions in the capitalist countries. The collective protection of socialism is necessary as long as imperialism exists, and it calls for personal commitment. Through its successful policy the party has also broadened the social and political base on which rests our citizens' willingness and ability to defend the socialist achievements and peace. Socialist production relations condition as well as require peace and security. And as these production relations offer the possibility to develop to an unprecedented extent the capabilities of society for the good of the people, they also are the decisive preconditions for reliably ensuring the protection of socialism. Socialist defense readiness, that significant yardstick for socialist awareness, mainly rests on politically motivated fundamental convictions. One of the most important ones is the realization that in socialism personal, collective and all-inclusive social interests in principle coincide.

Political-ideological and political-organizational work by the party in propagating the need for the defense of socialism, its vivid indoctrination with historical lessons from the struggle against the criminal imperialist policy of war and oppression and, not last, the meaningful organization of defense are activating the socialist defense readiness of the GDR citizens. In view of the attempts by the most aggressive forces of international reaction at exporting the counterrevolution through armed strength, be it in Vietnam or in Angola, one has come better to understand that the military strength of socialism is necessary for ensuring peaceful conditions for the revolutionary world process. It makes sure that the forces of peace and socialism are stronger than those of imperialism.

That strength is guaranteed through the alliance with the Soviet Union and with the armies of the Warsaw Pact states. Especially the efforts and successes in the struggle for enforcing the CPSU's peace program have strengthened and consolidated the GDR citizens' confidence and trust in the power of the socialist community of states. They have at the same time deepened their comprehension that their own contribution to the defense is a useful and necessary part of the invincible whole. And so the unity between socialist patriotism and proletarian internationalism also determines our socialist defense readiness. The alliance of the socialist states, an alliance of an entirely new type, forms the foundation for the political and economic strength they share, for continued foreign policy successes in the struggle for enforcing peaceful coexistence, but also for the concrete forms of their military collaboration.

The knowledge the GDR has about the socioeconomic causes for war, armaments and a policy of tension allows us to unmask the political maneuvers and the armaments and aggressive policy of imperialism. If FRG radio and television stations are constantly trying to insinuate that the Warsaw Pact states have aggressive military intentions, in order thereby to cloak their own

extensive armaments, such slanderous argumentation that disguises the real causes calls for attention in so far as it is meant to suggest a pseudo-logic to the broad masses in the NATO states to the effect that the socialist states are militarily strong, in fact stronger than they should have to be and consequently, according to the imperialist way of thinking (if one is strong, one must needs threaten others!), would have to attack the Western states, for which reason therefore still more comprehensive NATO armaments would be indispensable, and ultimately it would be justified -- in order to anticipate an alleged assault from the East depicted by the scandal sheets every day -- to launch a preventive attack. The former U.S. Secretary of Defense Schlesinger has said several times one might be forced to be the first to use nuclear weapons, and FRG Defense Minister Leber has agreed with him. To other bourgeois politicians such slander offers a welcome occasion for raising the demand the socialist states should unilaterally weaken their military strength. Complying with that would mean virtually encouraging the most extreme imperialist forces, with applause from the Maoists, to engage in military adventures and upset the peace of the world. The socialist states' military possibilities thus are completely in harmony with the peace strategy they have announced and been carrying through consistently: "For having managed in the last 3 decades to preserve world peace and reduce the danger of war the main credit must go to the military strength and peace policy of the Soviet Union and of the Warsaw Pact organization."³

Our policy, with its supreme principle of doing everything for the good of the people, aims at further shaping the developed socialist society in the GDR, in order thereby to create the fundamental preconditions for the gradual transition to communism. Led by the SED, we thereby also reinforce and broaden the solid foundation for our people's internal security and comfort. This also provides our NVA with the military requirement to ensure external security, the peaceful condition for our social advances. The GDR will continue to do what it can for incessantly strengthening its protective and security organs. The NVA's military class task will continue to be the reliable protection, shoulder to shoulder, in firm comradeship in arms with the glorious Soviet Army and the other fraternal armies, of the socialist order and the peaceful life of the citizens of the GDR and of all states in the socialist community.⁴

In contrast one finds the insecurity that is characteristic of the exploiter system, which implies the suppression of the proletariat, unemployment and external insecurity. Ultimately, even the military policy of the ruling classes in the capitalist countries and their attempts at defaming the socialist military power are reducible to the contradiction between capital and labor.

The Ninth SED Congress presented a vivid and impressive picture of the unity of the party, the people and the army. The socialist patriotism of the GDR citizens, in unity with proletarian internationalism, has received strong impulses after the Eighth Party Congress. As the result of a coordinated, common policy by the countries of the socialist community opposing the

imperialist states, and through the solidary support by the communists and other progressive forces in the nonsocialist countries, the GDR gained international diplomatic recognition. In combination with the domestic focus on still better satisfying the constantly growing material and cultural vital needs -- the effects of which became visible, among other things, in social measures such as, particularly, in housing construction --, social patriotism in its unity with proletarian internationalism turned more and more into a conviction on the part of the GDR citizens. Their pride has grown in living in the socialist Germany, which is a firm and inseparable part of the socialist community.

The GDR citizens also learn to understand better and better, even under the now so complicated interrelations in international politics, to distinguish, by comparing the enormous military potentials, whose hand it is that "the gun" is in and in whose interest it is wielded: whether in the interest of the ruling forces, against the people, in the capitalist countries, or for the protection of the people and in its interests, in the fraternally allied countries of the socialist community as well as on behalf of the peoples struggling for their national liberation against imperialist aggressors. Especially in the interval between the Eighth and the Ninth Party Congress, a time so rich in international events, the GDR people became much more aware of this: Peace, and internal and external security are of the essence of socialist society. Comrade Erich Honecker's words at the Ninth Party Congress spoke to the heart of the people: "In the struggle for peace we shall let ourselves be surpassed by no one."⁵ The countries of the socialist community and the communists and, with them, the peaceful forces all over the world do what they can to eliminate war as a means for solving controversial issues in the relations between states.

It is imperative purposefully to implement the peace program of the CPSU, to hold a world disarmament conference, to outlaw nuclear weapons tests, to agree on prohibiting the development and production of new weapons of mass destruction, and to advance a reciprocal reduction of armed forces and armaments while maintaining undiminished security.

Undiminished security remains the guarantee for successful socialist construction. Our own historical experience has taught us that the attempts by reaction at destroying socialism have to be opposed by means of revolutionary force for the protection of the socialist achievements. If there was one date, one event, that underscored that need, it was that of 13 August 1961 with its protective and security measures. The positive consequences of responsible action taken by our state together with the fraternal socialist countries are perfectly clear today. Then it was that the corner stone for the strengthening of internal and external security was laid. It was necessary to frustrate the adventurous imperialist plans laying hands on the sovereignty and independence of the GDR in order to carry on, in quiet and security and with constant vigilance, with the systematic construction of socialism. The peace in Europe had been saved and was fortified.

And if detente today constitutes the main trend in international relations, this is so because the hot and cold warriors have been stubbornly opposed. Their songs of hatred -- as once again sounded at the Pentecostal meetings of the revanchist associations in the FRG -- warn us never to reduce our vigilance vis-a-vis these defeated of yesterday.

The citizens' willingness to obey their duties in defending socialism and in voluntarily contributing to the further strengthening of the defense capability of the GDR and of the socialist community of states has developed well. It has received new impulses from the pioneering resolutions of the Ninth SED Congress. Day after day the GDR citizens are demonstrating their readiness and ability of defending their socialist fatherland.

The fighting strength of the core of the GDR's defense potential, the NVA, firmly anchored within the military coalition of the Warsaw Pact, is an essential criterion for the state of socialist defense readiness. The high degree of conscious, disciplined performance in the military service, shaped by the principles of socialist morality, on the part of the young soldiers, the political and military-technical level of the military cadres, and the improved service and living conditions in the NVA and in the GDR border troops are important elements in their improved fighting strength.

The Central Committee and its Politburo have seen to it "that, above all, year after year, more conscious young people, provided with a high measure of polytechnical training and physical adroitness, are recruited into the armed forces and the other armed organs, and that these young soldiers got modern weapons and equipment and learned their operational use."⁶ Recruiting cadres who are politically, physically and intellectually suited for military careers, getting them into the armed forces, who mainly derive from the working class and are bringing along all the qualifications, as socialist personalities, for being the leaders of military collectives, therein lies one of the criteria for this increased socialist defense readiness.

There hardly can be a precise measure for the additional performances by hundreds of thousands of working people in the defense of their socialist fatherland as a part of their volunteer activities. That includes the many loyal members of the working class militia, civil defense, reservists collectives, the associates of the Society for Sport and Technology, and also the helpers of the People's Police and many other GDR citizens. It testifies to the high civic sense of responsibility on the part of the GDR citizens, and to the vitality of our socialist democracy, that in exercising their rights they have developed manifold initiatives for further strengthening the GDR's defense capability.

The Ninth SED Congress documents have presented the function the workers and farmers' state has in ensuring the working people's security, in accordance with the internal and external conditions of the GDR, its position within the alliance of the Warsaw Pact states and the international requirements of the class struggle. "Ensuring peace and security also requires of the GDR

that it further develop its defense readiness," that is the way our party program defines every citizen's right and honorable duty to defend our socialist fatherland. "Encouraging all citizens' readiness and ability toward the protection of socialism calls for constant and utmost attention by the party, the state and all social organizations."⁷

The political and moral strength of the developed socialist society is an important precondition for the military strength of the armies of the socialist community of states. A successful policy for the benefit of all citizens creates internal security and, at the same time, the foundation for external security. Socialism and peace belong together.

FOOTNOTES

1. Comrade Erich Honecker, "Bericht des Zentralkomitees der Sozialistischen Einheitspartei Deutschlands an den IX. Parteitag der SED" (SED Central Committee Report to the Ninth SED Congress), Dietz publishing house, Berlin, 1976, p 26.
2. "Programm der Sozialistischen Einheitspartei Deutschlands" (SED Program), Dietz publishing house, Berlin, 1976, p 8.
3. Comrade Erich Honecker, op. cit., p 14.
4. Cf. ibid., p 119.
5. Ibid., p 15.
6. Heinz Hoffmann, "Ever on Guard for Peace and Socialism," NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, 20 May 1976.
7. "Programm . . .," op. cit., p 63.

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EAST GERMANY

BERLIN TO DEVELOP AS 'GUARDIAN OF REVOLUTIONARY TRADITIONS'

East Berlin EINHEIT in German Vol 31 No 8, Aug 76 signed to press 12 Jul 76
pp 894-900

[Article by Konrad Neumann, member, SED Central Committee Politburo;
first secretary, SED Berlin Bezirk Management: "Our Capital City--
A Cause for All of Us"]

[Text] Berlin, the capital city of the GDR, is the political, economic and spiritual-cultural center of the developing German socialist nation. Grown as our republic has grown and intimately connected with its development, Berlin has been providing strong impulses for the construction of socialism, for the further shaping of the developed socialist society. Shaped by the eventful history of the class struggle, the capital city of the GDR now is the guardian and heir of the revolutionary traditions. They are expressed in the city's further development which must be carried on through investing the strength of our entire republic.

Berlin, the capital city of the GDR, is the political, economic and spiritual-cultural center of the developing socialist nation -- a city of peace and of agreement between nations, a site of important traditions of the labor movement and a city of youth. Once shaped by the history of German militarism and imperialism, largely destroyed in World War II as the result of the criminal policy of fascist Germany, after 1945, the socialist Berlin has experienced a significant upswing through a great construction effort in a process of democratic restoration. Especially through urban renewal and the successes in the implementation of the main task, with housing construction as its core, much has been accomplished, and many important preconditions were created for higher goals. Proceeding from the SED Central Committee Politburo resolution on the further development of Berlin, the capital city of the GDR, and from the documents of the 12th SED Bezirk Delegates Conference of Berlin, the Ninth Party Congress emphatically confirmed: "By means of using the strength of our republic, we are purposefully and at greater speed continuing the construction of our capital city. All citizens of our republic shall be rightly proud of their capital city."¹

The development of the capital city of the first Workers and Farmers' State on German soil is intimately connected with the eventful history of the class conflict between socialism and imperialism in Europe after World War II. As the political center of our country, grown through class struggle, it has been shaped by the emergence and development of the GDR, by the formation of a socialist German nation, much as, in turn, strong impulses have come from it for the construction of socialism in the GDR and for the consolidation of friendship with the fraternal socialist countries, in particular with the Soviet Union.

That Berlin became the capital city of the GDR² amounted to an act of affirming the progressive traditions of German history, which inspired Ernst Thaelmann with the hope -- especially in view of the unsavory past history of Berlin as the capital of imperialist Germany -- that Berlin would become the "main center of the German revolution, much as the Russian revolution began in St. Petersburg and Moscow,"³ so that thereby the legacy of the struggles of "red Berlin" would be preserved and accomplished. The mission that came with the founding of the GDR, to preserve the revolutionary and democratic traditions of Berlin and thereby to create further preconditions for socialist development, amounted to a turning point in the city's history. All the more furiously did imperialism then push ahead with the construction of West Berlin as "frontline city" and "bridgehead" while kindling the "cold war."

It conforms with the glorious and revolutionary traditions of Berlin, the capital city of the GDR, that here, on 13 August 1961, the "policy of strength" and of "roll back" was soundly defeated. The capital city of the GDR, Berlin, turned out to be a bastion for the safeguarding of peace in Europe and for more firmly mooring the GDR in the socialist community of states. Thereby, and through the demarcation from the restorative forces of imperialism in the GDR and in West Berlin, it became a symbol of the socialist countries' will for peace and of the inviolability of the accomplishments of socialism. Important impulses for the political and economic consolidation of the GDR came from initiatives and achievements by the working people in Berlin such as those of the electrode operators of the VEB Elektrokohle in Berlin-Lichtenberg who, after 13 August 1961, came out with the production appeal to "produce more at the same amount of time for the same amount of money."

Berlin's historical development testifies to the position of respect the first German Workers and Farmers' State has gained in the world, its firm mooring within the socialist community of states and the development of the socialist German nation. It likewise knocks down all those lies that, while ignoring actual historic developments, keep talking about the need to "keep the German question open" and about a "unified German nation," wishing to turn West Berlin into the "actual German capital." That contradicts historical facts as much as the agreements made. Anyone propagating such theses patently advocates revanchist and nationalistic positions. And that is all the more so when in the same breath they are then talking about an alleged special status of the capital city of the GDR, Berlin.

It is sufficiently well known that Berlin has been the capital city of the GDR since 1949 and an integral part of the GDR with the same legal status as any other part in the territory of the GDR. It is only natural therefore that the People's Chamber or the GDR Government decide on any matters concerning the capital city of the GDR, Berlin. The 3 September 1971 Quadripartite Agreement takes account of that fact by not even mentioning, as indeed it had no cause to mention, the GDR capital city.

The political mission to make, with the fulfillment of the Ninth SED Congress decision, the continued shaping of the developed socialist society and thus the creation of the basic preconditions for the gradual transition to communism particularly apparent in the development of the capital -- this mission continues the process of revolutionary tradition, initiated by the German workers class during the years following the smashing of fascism, on a new and higher level.

Capital of the GDR -- Guardian and Heir of Revolutionary Traditions

If today on the territory of Berlin as proclaimed the capital of the German Empire in 1871 there are the capital of a socialist German state and a relic of the infamous and criminal history of German imperialism, this reflects the contradictory history, shaken by fierce class struggles, of the German people in our epoch, the struggle between the revolutionary workers class and the reactionary imperialist bourgeoisie. Even when the German workers class originated Berlin became a center of the labor movement. Here it was where decisive class battles were carried out against capitalism, militarism and war. This is the city where Marx and Engels studied; here is where Heinrich Heine, Wilhelm Liebknecht, Franz Mehring and Karl Liebknecht worked. On the barricades of the 1848 Revolution, Berlin workers were fighting in the forefront, and Berlin's revolutionary Social Democrats indefatigably, despite Bismarck's Socialist Law, were "leading all European metropolises," as Engels put it, "far ahead even of Paris."⁴ This is the city that was often visited by Lenin who met here with the leaders of the German labor movement, the city where the KPD was founded in 1918 and where Karl Liebknecht emphatically articulated the will for the assumption of political power by the German workers class, in proclaiming the first socialist German republic from a balcony of the city castle. Here Thaelmann's Central Committee worked, here was the seat of the West European bureau of the Comintern, headed by Georgi Dimitroff since 1929. All that shows the "great strategic importance"⁵ the communists placed on the capital.

But Berlin also was the city where Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg were assassinated, the seat of the power centers of the exploiter class, of the cartel masters and bank directors, the governments and general staffs, the bourgeois party executives and mass media, the city of militarist Prussianism where imperialism opposed the revolutionary forces with special harshness and brutality, the city of the Reichstag fire and the capital of that predaceous fascist Germany that caused the nations to equate the name of Berlin with fear, hatred and terror.

And it also is the city where the hoisting of the red flag on the Reichstag building proclaimed the defeat of German fascism and the end of World War II.

The development of our capital was closely combined with the preservation of its revolutionary traditions. There are hundreds of monuments and memorials that testify to the Berlin working people's allegiance to the "red Berlin" of which Thaelmann spoke. As guardians and heirs of that tradition they feel close kinship with the implementation of our party's resolutions. In the past, as Comrade Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev remarked at the Eighth SED Congress, Berlin "was known as a capital from which no good news would come for the cause of peace. It was the bastion of German militarists and cannon kings. But having become the capital of the socialist German state, it obtained an entirely new reputation. Now the voice of peace and people's friendship is sounding from Berlin, the GDR capital. This change shows the historic turn brought about by a peace-loving socialist state originating on German soil."⁶

Important Contribution to the Fulfillment of the Eighth Party Congress Decisions

The Eighth Party Congress decisions, our party's policy aiming at the fulfillment of the main task, have also in Berlin shaped all domains of public life. With the implementation of the main task in its unity of economic and social policy, the living conditions of the Berlin working people have visibly improved. Significant progress was made in developing the capital into the largest industrial city in the GDR and its political and spiritual-cultural center. Socialist production relations have been further consolidated. This is shown, not last, by the proportion of industrial community production in Berlin's state-owned enterprises, which rose from 89.3 percent in 1971 to 99.4 percent by the end of 1975.

The diligent work, rich in initiatives, by Berlin's working people further enhanced the industrial importance of the city. This is demonstrated by the fact that approximately one-fifth of GDR production in electrical engineering and electronics comes from Berlin. In that area, the production volume at 35.6 percent rose above average during the last 5 years, and thus Berlin -- mainly by its shipments in supplies -- is making an important contribution to the GDR economy at large. But also 12 percent of men's clothing and 21 percent of women's fashions of total GDR production come from Berlin. By production increases during that period in commodities with the quality label "Q" by 3.6 times, an above-average contribution to improving the performance of the GDR economy also was made in the important area of quality production. This development continues with the planned task for 1976 and the plan fulfillment already achieved as well as through the goals for 1980 and beyond.

And how the appearance of our capital in the artistic and cultural field makes itself felt is something of which every Berliner, every citizen of the republic and every visitor in our country can convince himself by what he sees and experiences there.

Its citizens' social security, protection and safety are social realities of socialism in our capital city. For that too we have made the state border around Berlin, a 40-km boundary, so secure 15 years ago as was required in response to the policy of our imperialist surroundings.

We take pleasure in the visible progress achieved in all domains of life. It reflects the steadily and powerfully growing capability of our socialist society. It comes as the result of the diligent work of more than 600,000 working people in our capital city who have been joined for some years by increasing numbers of working people from the other GDR bezirks.

In areas that are important for the life of the citizens in the GDR we have achieved a great deal, and it is "understood that it is part and parcel of this state to have a capital city which will impressively reflect its successes and accomplishments. The development of Berlin is a cause for the whole republic. It needs the strength, initiative and passion of all. This city, whose looks were formed by capitalism for over a century and which was devastated by Hitler's war, where a new great construction effort was begun and achieved after the triumph over fascism by the glorious Soviet Army, it is about to experience a new step in its development, shaped more and more by the essential features and ideals of socialism and communism. As in our entire sociopolitical program the housing construction program constitutes the principal task, it does so likewise in our plans for Berlin. And more than that. In the capital city, that principle has to be demonstrated in an exemplary manner. And here we have to take into account that in the area of housing construction in Berlin there is still even a need to catch up in many respects."⁷ Those words by our party's General Secretary, Comrade Erich Honecker, convincingly and cogently express the social concern behind those measures.

Building Under Socialism Serves the Good of the People

The citizens of the capital city and the citizens of the GDR are enjoying everything beautiful and everything that is important to life in the capital city that has thus far been built. So they also enjoy the almost 200,000 apartments newly built, converted, expanded or modernized in the capital city since the founding of the GDR. In some areas the era of capitalism still casts a shadow over this fine development; at that time, Berlin became the vastest sprawl of monotonous blocks of apartment houses in the world. Even today there are still more than 80,000 apartments in Berlin that are located in the rear of apartment houses; they frequently are without adequate light and fresh air, and they are of poor construction. In order to improve housing conditions, from 300,000 to 330,000 apartments will be built until 1990, and 200,000 or 230,000 of them will be newly built apartments. That poses high demands, since even now the appropriate preconditions have to be met, through developing urban networks, for power, water supply, water purification, communications, transportation and, not last, for enhancing the capabilities of the city's construction industry itself. The investments that have to be allocated for it, going up by multiple factors in the 1976-1980 Five-Year Plan, compared to the last 5 years, are of dimensions that will demand all the more a high-grade preparation and implementation, management and planning.

Up to as many as 20,000 construction workers from centrally directed construction combines and the other GDR bezirks are scheduled to be working on the construction sites of the capital city by 1980. Of the M 15.2 billion for building construction to be allocated for the capital city in the years from 1976 to 1980, M 4.4 billion will go to the centralized building combines and construction workers from other bezirks. That makes new demands in new dimensions, and not only on the construction material collectives in Berlin.

The Ninth SED Congress directive on the Five-Year Plan for the development of the GDR economy from 1976 to 1980 has set down that the production of building construction in Berlin be increased by from 145 to 148 percent. For that, the housing construction capacities must be rapidly developed, an above-average development of below ground level construction capacities has to be ensured, and the efficiency and effectiveness of industrial construction must be greatly improved. We consider it a task of fundamental importance to create the kind of conditions for all collectives working in the capital city that will further their willingness to take on projects and their initiatives. This must be made use of comprehensively so that we will get high-efficiency construction activities. And here we also find an important field of application for the political-ideological work and the leadership activity of the party organization.

According to the experiences gathered thus far, the effectiveness of operations largely depends on how much state management and social organizations in any given bezirk feel responsible for a complex preparation and execution of projects to be built in Berlin. Efficiency is improved here through the specialization in identical products. For example, the bezirk construction authorities of Dresden and Erfurt have taken on the construction of specialized health facilities in Berlin, those of Neubrandenburg, the building of large units of preschool facilities and department stores, and those of Halle, the construction of gas station and car service units.

Through the new housing construction we shall create in the next few years the decisive prerequisites for the urgent tasks of reconstructing the old housing areas to a large extent. This is of fundamental importance to solving the housing problem in the capital city. By 1990, approximately 100,000 apartments will have to be reconstructed, for more than half of the residential buildings in the capital city were built before 1918; in Central Berlin, the figure even is 73 percent and in the Friedrichshain city district, as much as 80 percent. And then there is the fact that in the past the capital city lagged behind in housing construction, in comparison with 27 selected cities in our republic, while at the same time thousands of citizens moved to Berlin each year. This shows what enormous efforts have to be made, demanding the capacities of the whole republic, for solving the housing problem in Berlin.

Also in the reconstruction of the capital's old housing, the other GDR bezirks are assuming construction tasks. It probably also is in the interest of more effective construction, that the reconstruction of certain residential areas is taken on in toto. That way perhaps one will get a "Dresden quarter" or a "Rostock quarter" in the capital, whereby the best traditions of those bezirks are tied together with those of Berlin.

Of special importance to an effective and successful implementation of the developmental measures for Berlin decided on all around is an efficient use of sound achievements of the scientific-technical progress. For the capital city to serve as example, for deepening the intensification in Berlin industries as in construction and city technology, such applications are of as much importance as they are in trade, supply and other services, and other important areas.

Impressively reflecting the successes and achievements of our socialist state in the capital city has much to do with an exemplary application of our scientific-technical progress. Here lies the important testing ground for all who excel in high achievements, in the Bezirke of the republic, for their capital city. Yet it is neither possible nor efficient to accomplish all achievements for the capital city in Berlin itself.

The further urban planning and architectural design for Berlin is meant to make visible and give life to the socialist interrelations among people, in their work, their residential area, in their spiritual-cultural life and in their recreation. The city planning concept for the capital city therefore proceeds from the intent to preserve or recondition what was of value, architecturally, in the past, what is of interest in terms of cultural history. This reconstruction of residential areas must be combined -- in line with the requirements of our intensification -- with the reconstruction of industry, the commercial network, the services network, all serving, organically, the capital city in its functions. At the same time new urban construction aggregates have to be developed. We know that a capital city, no matter how beautiful it might be architecturally, has no special attraction or importance unless the improved material possibilities also form socialist modes of conduct. Urban construction has always also been a manifestation of the ruling classes. For example, after defeating the Paris Commune the French bourgeoisie proclaimed as the political goal of its urban construction to make revolution more difficult. Our urban design, however, aims at having Berlin become part of the further shaping of the developed socialist society with all the conditions for the revolutionary process that entails.

In the highly developed capitalist countries more and more complaints can be heard that place in serious doubt the very idea of urban construction and signify the disintegration of the largest cities there. They are talking, for example, of the centers of large cities as the "poorhouses of the nation" and are comparing the "extinct" cores of U.S. cities with as large an area as 20 bombed-out Berlins. The class character of capitalist housing construction is revealed, not last, also by the customary rentals in the FRG and West Berlin, which even turn the "social housing construction" into a tool for an increased exploitation of the working class. In 1974, they had rentals of an average of DM 6.50 per m², and estimates of the "German Renters Association" in the FRG envisage approximately DM 13.00 per m² for 1985. At the same time, the housing inequities are mounting in the FRG. There are approximately 300,000 empty apartments no one can pay for, while from 500,000 to 800,000 FRG citizens have to settle for make-shift lodging. Comrade Gus Hall has said: "The 'crisis of the cities' is none but a reflection of the

deepening general crisis of capitalism and of the new difficulties that have arisen for state monopoly capitalism."⁸

Socialist urban construction, however, is social urban construction. Under socialist conditions only is it possible to structure urban construction, on the basis of an overall conception, in constant and increasing harmony with any given and far-reaching needs by the working people.

In the GDR capital, the spiritual-cultural center of the country, there are outstanding scientific, cultural and arts institutions such as the GDR Academy of Science, the Humboldt University, the Arts Academy, numerous clearly profiled theatres rich in tradition like the German State Opera, the German Theater, the Comic Opera, and the Berlin Ensemble, museums, galleries, monuments and libraries of world renown. The Berlin Theater and Music Festival, regular music biennials and the political song festival are of unmistakable distinctiveness and have increasingly gained in international importance. The city welcomes approximately 5 million guests each year and 18 million visitors of the capital's cultural institutions.

Approximately one-third of the GDR's creative artistic forces live in the capital where their spiritual and cultural potentials serve the Berliners and their guests. Berlin is a city of scientific and art conferences, a place of training and the seat of highly specialized medical care institutions for the citizens everywhere in the GDR -- as, for instance, the Charite hospital with its rich traditions -- which far extend beyond the city's boundaries. Its function as a capital can also be found in the fact that important GDR mass media have their headquarters in Berlin and transmit from here, day after day and hour after hour, news and cultural programs via the press, radio and television to all places in the GDR. This commits the Berlin scientists and those who are creative in culture to make still greater efforts, under the leadership by the party organizations, in making visible in Berlin, in the sense of its function as a capital and in preserving its revolutionary traditions, especially clearly the superiority of socialist science, education and culture.

High Demands on the Fighting Strength of the Party Organizations

The dynamic development of the capital city, in line with the decisions of the Ninth Party Congress and the 12th SED Berlin Bezirk Delegates Conference, above all poses new great tasks for the communists in Berlin. Their solution requires constantly raising the level in the leadership activities in party and mass activities. It has now become our most important task to see to it that the party decisions determine the work everywhere and are rigorously brought to realization in the life of the citizens. Thereby we heighten the leadership role of the party in all domains of public life. The comrades must be prepared for the demands of years before us, the contact with all working people must be strengthened, and their creative forces must be focused on the fulfillment of the economic plans. And here, the growing number, above all, of construction workers from all bezirks who are working in the capital city, requires that we thoroughly check the concern of safeguarding party

influence in the collectives. We know the communists affect their collectives actively and vigorously. Party influence will still be greater, however, if for the Berlin assignments we also improve the effectiveness of party work in those collectives. We ought to enforce the form of the work through the party delegates of the party bezirk executives all the way. The experiences of the Halle bezirk executive have shown that, through keeping abreast of the concrete conditions, very effective contacts can be made with the delegated party organizations on the one hand and with the Berlin bezirk management or the Berlin kreis management for construction, on the other. This would improve the political work with the comrades mainly of those production collectives that in part are working in Berlin over a longer period of time without any longer participating in the party life of their basic organization. One should furthermore consider whether within the framework of possibilities provided by the party statutes, one could not form party aktivs directed by party deputies of the bezirk managements.

SED members and candidates are fully aware that only through the strength of the whole party, of the FDJ with its "Berlin Initiative," and all working people of the GDR can we satisfy the confidence of the working class in our creating, through the further development of Berlin, exemplary achievements and deeds, worthy of socialism, in the interest of the people in our republic. The communists in the capital city of the GDR, Berlin, will do what they can so as to create good preconditions for it in making their own superb contribution to the implementation of the Ninth Party Congress decisions.

FOOTNOTES

1. Comrade Erich Honecker, "Bericht des Zentralkomitees der Sozialistischen Einheitspartei Deutschlands an den IX. Parteitag der SED" (SED Central Committee Report to the Ninth SED Congress), Dietz publishing house, Berlin, 1976, p 45.
2. "GDR Constitution," Article 1.
3. DIE ROTE FAHNE, 27 May 1930.
4. Friedrich Engels, "Speech at a Social Democratic Meeting in Berlin, 22 September 1893," Marx/Engels, "Werke" (Works), Vol 22, Dietz publishing house, Berlin, 1963, p 412.
5. Ernst Thaelmann, DIE ROTE FAHNE, 27 May 1930.
6. L. I. Brezhnev, "Speech to the Eighth SED Congress," Dietz publishing house, Berlin, 1971, p 17.
7. Erich Honecker, "Concluding Speech to the 12th Berlin SED Bezirk Delegates Conference," BERLINER ZEITUNG, 29 March 1976.
8. Gus Hall, "The Barometer Indicates Bad Weather," PROBLEMS OF PEACE AND SOCIALISM, No 4, 1976, p 455.

SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL PROGRESS TO SERVE HUMANISM

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[Article by Prof Dr Herbert Hoerz, program director, Central Institute for
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[Text] Under real socialism, scientific-technical progress is systematically used and directed toward improving the people's material and cultural standard of living. The author characterizes the unity of economic and social policy as a concrete expression of socialist humanism and takes issue with attempts by bourgeois ideologists in their reinterpreting the negative consequences of scientific-technical progress that imperialism has produced into a crisis of man. Lasting and stable peace is and remains the fundamental prerequisite for bringing to reality our humanistic ideals. That is why the peace struggle of the peoples is humanism in action.

Scientific-technical progress is the decisive factor for a high developmental speed in socialist production, the growth of labor productivity and the improvement of all round social efficiency. By having science concentrate on important economic tasks, by the technical use made of basic scientific research and through the development of technology, the main task in the shaping of the developed socialist society, the further improvement of the people's material and cultural standard of living, is ever better being fulfilled on the basis of a high speed in the development of socialist production. Even back in 1918, Lenin emphasized: "The victorious proletariat now finds the earth open to be tapped, having become the common property of the people, and it will be in the position to build up new production and consumption in line with socialist principles. In the past all human thought, all human genius was out to provide for some all the blessings of technology and culture and to deprive the others of their greatest necessities -- culture and development. But now, all the miracles of technology, all achievements of culture are becoming the people's property, and henceforth human thought, human genius will never again be a means of force, of exploitation."¹ What Lenin predicted, what was started under his leadership, is being systematically brought to realization today under real socialism.

Humanism; Traditional and Contemporary

Humanism in general is the striving for humanity and for an existence of human dignity. The concept was coined in the 19th century when it stood for the education and culture fostered by the literature, languages and fields of knowledge of classical antiquity. Then the theoreticians of culture sometimes placed humanistic education in opposition to natural science and technical education. Our socialist system of education provides general education which includes natural science and technical knowledge as much as the knowledge of the dialectics of the process of history, the treasures of culture and a scientific world-outlook. We do not confine humanism to culture and education; we include in it all endeavors that want to do away with social conditions under which men are oppressed and enslaved and that seek peace, social progress and the free unfolding of personality. Our humanism is the humanism of the working class. It combines the knowledge of the laws of social development with personal commitment to social progress. It derives from the class interests of the working class conforming to the fundamental interests of all working people and to the endeavors of all honest humanists; it finds its full expression in the struggle by the working class for establishing a classless communist society. So it implies the unity of words and deeds and differs qualitatively from all other forms of humanism. Neither ancient nor bourgeois humanism could point to a scientifically justified way for realizing their ideals. Both had as their social foundation antagonistic class relationships on which they inevitably had to founder.

Bourgeois humanism formed through its confrontation with the ideology of feudal absolutism, in an epoch when, in Engels' words, the "spiritual dictatorship of the church" was broken: "It was the greatest progressive transformation mankind had ever experienced, a time that needed giants and produced giants, giants in brain power, passion and character, in complexity and erudition."²

The great ideas of liberty, equality, justice and fraternity and the demands connected with them for equal educational opportunities and for a truly human order inspired the popular masses in their struggle for the elimination of the feudal relations that enslaved them and for spiritual freedom. That significantly helped the breakthrough of historic progress. Yet bourgeois humanism lost its influence to the extent that the bourgeoisie started to misuse those ideas for enforcing its class interests, stabilizing its political power and suppressing the working masses. With the development of imperialism, bourgeois ideologists more and more used traditional humanist conceptions for disguising the dictatorship of the monopolies. True humanistic demands were increasingly being replaced by slogans about liberty and equality, democracy and progress. Today, with mottoes such as "freedom or socialism" or "democracy or dictatorship," they mainly serve anticommunism. Many an honest bourgeois humanist has been destroyed by the contradiction between their abstract demands for humanity and imperialist reality. There can be no other way out but joining progressive social forces, democratic movements or, ultimately, the working class, which alone can guarantee the fulfillment of humanistic demands.

The October Revolution created essential preconditions for putting humanistic ideals into effect. The abolition of the exploitation of man by man, socialist democracy based on the political power of the workers and farmers in alliance with other working people, the extension of human freedom, the protection of peace, woman's equality, general popular education and so forth are the foundations now existing in the socialist states for the further all round development of socialist humanism. And in Marxism-Leninism we have a scientific world-outlook which answers the questions that are so essential for the issue of humanism as, for instance, that of the role of man in the world, the meaning of his life and the character of social progress. That world-outlook places us in the situation where important social problems can be solved in a humanist manner. Socialist humanism is unabashedly party-minded; it defies any illusions that demands for humanity should not be class-bound. True-to-life socialism is the decisive force in the confrontation with imperialism. Closely linked with the international labor movement and the anti-imperialist liberation movement, it supports all humanistic demands in imperialist states and the states dependent on imperialism. The struggle for the respect for general human rights, peaceful coexistence, and national independence is a harsh economic, political and ideological class struggle in which the achievements of true-to-life socialism are gaining increasing importance. It convincingly demonstrates that in socialist society the exercise of political power by the workers and farmers and the realization of humanistic ideals are inseparably linked. Socialist humanism is meeting its test in the consolidation of socialism and in the confrontation with obsolete imperialism.

For systematically raising the people's material and cultural standard of living and thus to live up to the basic humanistic demands of socialist society, the deliberate use and application of scientific-technical progress are called for; through it we must improve labor productivity and the effectiveness of our work in all areas. The further shaping of the developed socialist society and, with it, the creation of the fundamental preconditions for the gradual transition to communism are making high demands on the management and planning of social progress and on the investigation into the processes of social development.

Tasks lie ahead of us which were but dreams to progressive bourgeois humanists. In the vision of land made fertile through common effort by free men on free ground, Goethe has his Faust experience the highest moment. Yet even while he presages a happiness so high, the highest wisdom that he owns is this: "Freedom and life are earned by those alone who conquer them each day anew." Not the idle parasite in fool's paradise, but a man who works for the good of the people enjoys a meaningful, happy life. Humanism challenges man. Only what we have produced ourselves can be consumed by us. That is why the unity between economic and social policy is a concrete expression of real humanism under socialist conditions. As our party program states: "The SED will continue all its efforts at having the working class and all other working people benefit from the growing achievements of labor, progress in production and the increasing application of scientific-technical achievements to further improve the people's standard of living and its culture and enrich their spiritual life."³

Efficacy and Humanity

At the 25th CPSU Congress, the acceleration of scientific-technical progress was singled out as a priority task. The General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, L. I. Brezhnev, stated: "We communists proceed from the understanding that under socialist conditions only can the scientific-technical revolution take the right course that accords with the interests of man and society. In turn, only on the basis of an accelerated development of science and technology can the ultimate task of the social revolution, the establishment of communist society, be solved."⁴ Social planning of, and control over, scientific-technical progress in the interest of humanity is the point. And more than that. The utilization of scientific-technical progress for efficient work in all domains is, under socialism, how real humanism expresses itself.

By efficacy we mean the ratio between expenditure and benefits. The point is that with less expenditure in embodied and live labor greater achievements are obtained in all fields of work. This demand for efficacy fully and completely conforms to our basic humanist concern. It opposes the waste of creativity, labor time and material. The material economy, for example, leads to increased production without additional materiel allocation. As the natural resources are not unlimited and the importation of raw materials is expensive, the saving of material by reducing production costs and the greater achievements with reduced investments will directly or indirectly benefit a better satisfaction of needs. That requires ideas about rationalization, about improved technology, about scientific-technical progress. In his study "How Must Competition Be Organized?" Lenin writes: "Only now the possibility is being created, broadly and truly for the masses to develop a spirit of enterprise, competition and bold initiatives."⁵ He calls for a struggle against old habits, slovenliness, inaccuracies, nervous haste and the proclivity toward substituting discussions for deeds. The working people's creative potentials have to be used all-inclusively. This is a requirement that should also, for example, be given more attention in many discussions. Meetings without concrete results and repetitive discussions tie up spiritual potentials that could be meaningfully employed. Not only that this will delay the solution of urgent problems, it can also paralyze the individuals' pleasure with their work and their initiative.

Scientific-technical progress serves the improvement in the efficacy of our work and is thus a decisive contribution to real humanism. Science and technology data are being applied to raise the people's material and cultural standard of living. Creative achievements among us no longer serve to satisfy the profit interests of the exploiter class, to intensify the exploitation of man, to demonstrate the craving for prestige by propertied persons or to arouse decadent desires. We have no patience with the complaints from some bourgeois ideologists and Maoist theoreticians about the senselessness of a life of material well-being nor with demands for frugality. What we are concerned with is to apply science and technology to raising both the material and the spiritual-cultural well-being. The development of the cultural level, the satisfaction of the needs for scientific and art education, and the development of our people's spiritual wealth amount to an important demand to which we also devote efficacy deliberations. Our humanism

ties in with the use of all creative potentials, the effective utilization of work results and the development of socialist personalities. That is why our deliberations on efficacy must include all areas of social activity. Extensive debate on the solution of theoretical problems also is needed within deadlines, not to substitute for experimentation and experience, but to apply them purposefully. What matters to us in all these problems is to work out meaningful orientations for scientific and scientific-technical progress pertaining to the tasks to be solved, short-range as well as long-term.

An inseparable unity exists in our society between carrying through the scientific-technical progress and humanism. And that is so, not last, because it is always a matter of improving the economic and the social efficacy of scientific-technical progress and of making use of it in the interest of man. And so Comrade Erich Honecker stated at the Ninth Party Congress that one concern of science and technology was "to save labor time and to make work more productive, physically easier and more interesting."⁶ And the concrete tasks for making that kind of objective effective reveal that the mastery over scientific-technical progress aims at systematically developing the socialist character of labor all round, creating working conditions that further the working people's pleasure at work, their willingness to do anything and their creativity, and reducing heavy physical work which is injurious to health. And thereby then, the effectiveness of scientific-technical progress in socialism, together with the socialist personality development, at once serves the coping with fundamental social processes such as gradually overcoming the essential differences between town and countryside, and between mental and physical labor. Whereas under capitalism scientific-technical progress deepens the social conflicts within society, in socialism it is an important means for the working people, now free from exploitation, for gradually suspending the social differences between men that were inherited from the old society.

Growth, Development and Satisfaction of Needs

Scientific-technical progress needs, not last, raw materials and energy. Natural resources are limited, energy sources are not inexhaustible. For ensuring high stable growth rates this means deliberately applying scientific-technical progress to material substitution, the material economy, material synthesis, rational exploitation of energy and the tapping of new energy sources. Bourgeois ideologists are trying to explain the dwindling growth rates under capitalism by the natural limits of growth without their showing the relation between the production growth and the state of development in social conditions.

For imperialism, the satisfaction of needs is only one means for constantly reaping higher profits. Unless profits are certain, products are destroyed and production capacities are cut back. The sense of crisis on the part of bourgeois humanists, expressing itself in pessimism about social progress, is fed by the situation of capitalist development as it really is.

The general crisis of capitalism is intensifying. It "encompasses more and more domains of public life. That applies to the international position of imperialism, its economy, ideology and morality, town and countryside, the individual and the family."⁷ Characteristic of contemporary capitalism is that its general crisis is interlinked with cyclical crises. "Baffled by that development, all prophets of a permanent prosperity under capitalism have lost their voice."⁸ Many a scientist in the capitalist countries who feels committed to capitalism would believe in view of that situation that it is the scientific-technical progress that endangers humanism. The crisis in inter-human relations in the imperialist system under the conditions of the scientific-technical revolution is being reinterpreted into a general crisis of man the causes of which are said to be produced by scientific and technical development. And in the confrontation with Marxism-Leninism many natural scientists in the capitalist countries are often asking whether its philosophical and social science insights are still pertinent to the findings of the natural sciences and to scientific-technical progress in our century.⁹

The ideological problems connected with that have already found their solutions in Marxism-Leninism; because of social science and science developments, however, they must always again be tested and rendered more precise. In the scientific world-outlook of the working class, the historic mission of this world-changing revolutionary force is always explained with the abolition of the exploiter society and the establishing of the classless society. Its mission thus consists of eliminating all socioeconomic foundations for anti-humanism and barbarism.

The Marxist-Leninist philosophy conceives of man as an aggregate of social relations, with the production relations being the decisive ones. Man is seen as the creator of his own history; he can give consciously shape to it provided the appropriate social prerequisites exist, the inevitable social laws are understood, and the strength of the people's masses is invested in obtaining social goals. Marx introduced materialism to the explanation of human history and social progress. He showed that the social sciences could make use of the criterion of the reduplication of social processes as long as they recognized the material social relations in their determining role regarding all other social relations and processes. A form of society is not determined by any specific form of government or some unique processes but by the totality of the production relations, that is, the relations men enter into in their confrontation with nature and which are defined by the position taken vis-a-vis the means of production, the place within the production process and the share in social wealth. Man is in the position, through his active and conscious confrontation with nature and the use he makes of scientific data and technical achievements, to produce his own conditions of existence, ever better to learn how to control nature, in accordance with his own needs, and also, at a certain level of development, his own social relations. A consistent application of dialectical materialism provides the scientific foundation for a Marxist-Leninist insight that has meanwhile also been confirmed in practice by true-to-life socialism: There is no general crisis of man per se, and man in socialist society has no reason to be pessimistic about the future.

The successful balance sheet on our development thus far and the Ninth Party Congress requirement on accelerating the scientific-technical progress and improving its economic and social effectiveness are eloquent testimony that in socialism use is made of scientific-technical progress for the good of the people, for the satisfaction of the working people's material and cultural needs. Economic growth is purposefully being used for social progress. That calls for state management and planning. For growth does not take place unplanned but in relation to concrete conditions targeting on the development of society and of personality. That is also expressed in the demands made of economic growth. A deliberate control of scientific-technical progress also calls for a thrifty handling of raw materials and energy so that long-lasting products are produced with long-lasting use value and which also satisfy esthetic demands. Basic research and further investments of material and creative potentials must, for instance, be directed still more strongly at research on new and improved procedures for the production and rational use of energy, for expanding our raw material base, and for material synthesis and substitution.

Also the need, scope, level, efficacy and quality of production increases serve the goal of ever better satisfying the needs of the population and of being able to carry out more and more comprehensive social measures. Science and technology are an important tool for that. The satisfaction of growing material and spiritual-cultural needs calls for attention to the relations between social possibilities and individual demands and also to the formation of needs that conform to the value concepts of socialist personalities. Socialism needs and creates new relations among the people, relations of comradely help and mutual support.

In the imperialist countries, scientific-technical progress and the possibilities it entails for at least partly satisfying certain material needs aggravate the human alienation that is typical of capitalism. Especially the representatives of the ruling class and members of the privileged strata frequently regard boredom and the spiritual void as a consequence of material security. And thus, for that reason, bourgeois ideologists are advising the representatives of the working class against struggling for material prosperity.

Who now benefits from that kind of advice? If the situation of the working people in the highly industrialized capitalist countries is analyzed, one finds such high unemployment figures, increasing early disabilities, a rising cost of living and many other factors that one cannot speak of material security for the mass of the working people. On the contrary, their living conditions are ever more strongly threatened by the monopoly policy subservient to the profit. To disparage material security deeply contradicts the requirements of social progress as it contradicts the interests of all those people who still today in the countries ruled by capitalism have to engage in harsh struggle on behalf of the material foundations for an existence in human dignity.

It would therefore be wrong and misleading to blame for the frequently observed spiritual void in imperialist countries the possibility for satisfying certain consumer needs which are partly brought about by the development of science and technology and the enormous scope of production. That void has, rather, been produced by an ever more strongly manipulated deformation of needs or the abstinence from any meaningful activity, the lack of purpose in life.

As true-to-life socialism has proven, the satisfaction of growing material needs, material security for all members of society, is prerequisite to appropriating spiritual values and to the all round development of individual capabilities in the interest of society and of the individual. The richness and variety of life in socialist society imply the conscious appropriation of the material and spiritual-cultural values of mankind and the new inter-human relations as much as the pleasure taken in all that is beautiful, which includes the material things that beautify and facilitate life. The formation of socialist material and spiritual-cultural needs doubtless does not come automatically; it is a complicated process, a struggle of the new against the old through which, under the leadership by the Marxist-Leninist party, obsolete modes of thinking and conduct are overcome and new socialist value criteria and ideas are developed. That also explains why the Ninth Party Congress focused on paying great attention to the further formation of the essential features of socialist personalities, the shaping of the socialist way of life and socialist ideals. At the same time the Party Congress convincingly demonstrated that to us, communist education no longer is a vision toward the future. Internationalism, solidarity, and mutual aid and support are today becoming more and more characteristic of the thoughts and actions of the working people in our republic, much as our high labor ethics and our active involvement in public concerns.

Material well-being is no gift from society. That much we know. One must work for it. Meaningful life under socialism and communism combines pleasure and personal dedication with social progress. That also always calls for confrontation with false attitudes, superficiality, mediocrity, heartlessness and self-satisfaction. That struggle pertains to new solutions for problems that have become ripe in an atmosphere of creative debate, deliberate release of initiatives and the unfolding of individual abilities and talents.

An educated person appropriates the treasures of culture. The socialist personality looks for the meaning of life in his dedication to the commonweal. In conscientious work and active participation in the further development of our socialist society he finds an important element of his personal satisfaction. The happiness and safety of all members of society and an understanding for the cares of others are essential features of socialist humanity.

Production growth thus is no end in itself under socialism but a component of a conception of social development in the center of which stands the well-being of the people. The comprehensive social measures carried out after the Eighth Party Congress have shown how increasing efficiency and the satisfaction of needs go hand in hand. Production growth and efficiency are

inseparably connected under socialism with initiative and creativity of the broad popular masses. The Ninth Party Congress endorsed the rigorous continuation of the unity of economic and social policy. The higher and new economic tasks posed by the Party Congress at once also "are a high spiritual demand for giving visible effect in life to the great socialist and communist ideals."¹⁰

Scientific-Technical Progress, Peace and Responsibility

Man's long-time yearning for peace belongs among the basic humanistic demands. Yet as long as we only had antagonistic class societies, wars were unavoidable. Then the striving for peace seemed an eternal illusion. Thanks to the socialist world, where peace was given a stable homestead, and as the consequence of the tenacious and unperturbed peace struggle carried on by the socialist countries in the arena of international events and by broad segments of the working people all over the world, important progress was made in reinforcing peace and diminishing the danger of war. A realistic foundation was thus laid for the peoples' striving for peace. Yet there still are aggressive, reactionary forces at work in imperialist countries trying as best they can to reverse the results achieved in the stabilization of peace and in the changed power ratio in favor of socialism. They are pushing ahead with their arms race in an unprecedented manner and are misusing scientific-technical progress for developing ever new weapons of mass destruction. Thus there are today mass destruction weapons which, fully employed as biological, chemical and physical weapons, would be strong enough to jeopardize the existence of mankind. Such weapons can have an impact on several generations. They would cause crippling diseases, chronic infirmities and genetic degeneration. Even the development of new weapons systems conjures up great dangers. Only think of the consequences, difficult to anticipate, of nerve gas experiments and the like.

In view of such a situation, the place taken by any humanistic scientist in the struggle for safeguarding world peace can only be at the side of the communists, the working class, the working people allied with it and all the active peace fighters, who do all they can to push ahead with the process of detente and the policy of peaceful coexistence in recognition of the principles agreed on in Helsinki for normalizing the relations among states with differing social systems. The peace program of the Soviet Union and of the socialist community of states as well as the Berlin Conference of Communist and Workers' Parties of Europe have proposed concrete measures for it. They are aimed at making the detente policy irreversible and at supplementing political by military detente. "The most urgent requirement for the further struggle on behalf of peace is to make progress in the field of disarmament by limiting the enormous armament burdens and preventing the imperialist war adventurers from forging ahead in their material war preparations."¹¹ This also requires us to take issue with any illusions about there being less of a danger in imperialism and with anticommunism and militarism. Peace and collaboration based on the policy of peaceful coexistence usher in economic benefits and could release enormous funds. "If those gigantic investments were to be used for raising the peoples' standard of living,

for surmounting economic backwardness, for aiding and supporting the developing countries and for environmental protection, a great boon that would be for the progress of all mankind.¹² But to confuse such possibilities for peace with some automatically self-regulating reality would be a great risk indeed. Strengthening the defense capability of socialism continues to be indispensably prerequisite to safeguarding the peace and an important guarantee for the policy of peaceful coexistence.

This is what the socialist countries have convincingly demonstrated: Social and scientific-technical progress are intimately interlinked. Not scientific-technical progress it is that endangers the peace -- however many bourgeois scientists may think so. Peace is threatened by those reactionary forces of monopoly capitalism, of the military-industrial complex, that make money from armaments and war. The active struggle by the broad popular masses must curb all those who are abusing the results of science for imperialist purposes. Each individual's responsibility must be determined, in historic and concrete terms and in relation to any given social conditions. Responsibility means the demands vested in man for envisaging the consequences of any decisions he may make and for preventing harmful consequences and promoting progressive ones, in that he will draw conclusions for the future from the results of his own acts. Responsibility is not an abstract quantity, nor is it defined by eternal values. In siding with the humanistic demands for peace, progress and freedom, the citizen of our socialist state is being urged into a higher responsibility for scientific-technical progress, for increasing his labor productivity and labor efficiency. Scientific-technical progress serves the good of the people under socialism because it is being consciously guided and used by the people under party leadership.

FOOTNOTES

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2. Friedrich Engels, "Dialectics of Nature," Marx/Engels, "Werke," Vol 20, Dietz publishing house, Berlin, 1962, p 312.
3. "Programm der Sozialistischen Einheitspartei Deutschlands" (SED Program), Dietz publishing house, Berlin, 1976, p 22.
4. L. I. Brezhnev, "25th CPSU Congress--Status Report of the CPSU Central Committee and the Next Party Tasks in Domestic and Foreign Policy," Dietz publishing house, Berlin, 1976, pp 58-59.
5. V. I. Lenin, "Werke," Vol 26, p 405.
6. Comrade Erich Honecker, "Bericht des Zentralkomitees der Sozialistischen Einheitspartei Deutschlands an den IX. Parteitag der SED" (SED Central Committee Report to the Ninth SED Congress), Dietz publishing house, Berlin, 1976, p 74.

7. Ibid., p 23.
8. Ibid., p 24.
9. Karl Steinbuch, Kurskorrektur" (Course Correction), Stuttgart, 1973, p 58; D. Bell, "The Postindustrial Society," "Das 198. Jahrzehnt" (The 198th Decade), Hamburg, 1969, p 363; M. Eigen and R. Winkler, "Das Spiel" (The Game), Munich, 1975, p 157.
10. Comrade Erich Honecker, op. cit., p 43.
11. "SED Central Committee Politburo Position on the Results of the Conference of Communist and Workers' Parties of Europe," in this EINHEIT issue, p 858.
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EAST GERMANY

FUNCTIONS, SIGNIFICANCE OF FDJ YOUTH BRIGADES OUTLINED

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pp 910-916

[Article by Dieter Mueller, SED Central Committee candidate, FDJ Central Council secretary: "Youth Brigades--Tradition and Mission"]

[Text] The 10th Parliament came up with an impressive balance sheet on the work of the youth organization, the party's active helper and fighting reserve, and revealed how youth will implement the Ninth Party Congress resolutions. Following the good traditions from the struggle and history of the FDJ, the organization, under the leadership by the Marxist-Leninist party and together with the FDGB and the state and economic functionaries, is paying the greatest attention to the consolidation, promotion and new formation of youth brigades. They form the foundation for FDJ work in the enterprises. Political-ideological and economic tasks which occupy the central point in this are presented by use of the examples of successful youth brigades.

The 10th FDJ Parliament, which assembled a few days after the historic Ninth SED Congress, set down the basic direction in which the FDJ, and all youth in our country along with it, will approach the fulfillment of the party resolutions. It came up with an impressive balance sheet on the work of the youth organization since the Eighth Party Congress, the participation by youth in the successful realization of the party's economic and social policy and how the FDJ has proven itself as the helper and fighting reserve of the SED. In accordance with our general party line the 10th Parliament revealed how the FDJ is going to carry out its main task, as formulated in the SED Central Committee report, "of helping the party in educating steadfast fighters for establishing the communist society who will act in the spirit of Marxism-Leninism."¹

The Parliament received with justified pride and new commitments the assessment given by the SED Central Committee General Secretary, Comrade Erich Honecker, who said in his report: "Our party's youth policy has always stood and stands on the principle that youth must be given full confidence and responsibility. The result of this policy indicates that youth has not betrayed that confidence and has enthusiastically assumed its responsibility. We are thinking with love and respect here of the FDJ, its willingness for involvement and its dedication to the cause of socialism and of peace."²

The "FDJ Ninth Party Congress Assignment" is the answer by which the youth organization takes its place within the large mass initiative by the working people for the fulfillment of the beautiful and demanding tasks of the Ninth Party Congress. All girls and boys in our country have thereby been summoned to invest all their strength in the further shaping of the developed socialist society and so help create the fundamental preconditions for the gradual transition to communism. That fighting program determines the goal and content of FDJ work in the future.

The 10th Parliament offered a rich reflection of the work enthusiasm and of the zeal for learning among FDJ members. It could now accept as assured that the FDJ, under the leadership by the Marxist-Leninist party and alongside the FDGB, has helped enrich socialist competition and successfully involve youth in effective mass initiatives. The Fair of the Masters of Tomorrow, for instance, is a movement without which the life of the youth organization -- and even the life of the entire economy -- by now is no longer conceivable. More than 2 million girls and boys are taking part in it. One of every three young workers is an innovator. The FDJ campaign "Material Economy" has netted a gain of M 2.6 billion since 1971. FDJ members and Young Pioneers have since that time saved the economy 565,315 tons of scrap and 50,014 tons of old paper. Some 165,000 participants in the FDJ student brigades have helped in materializing important economic tasks. Values in millions have been produced by 434,155 pupils in the "camps for recreation and labor." As many as 4,802 "youth projects of German-Soviet friendship," the work by 250 basic FDJ organizations on the "Friendship Magistral," and the central youth project of the "Druzhba Line" demonstrate that an increasing number of young people find their personal dedication, a revolutionary task, in socialist economic integration.

All those achievements made the "young socialists' account," from which most of the youth leisure time facilities, youth events and bonus trips to fraternal socialist countries are funded, increase to M 80 million. For their outstanding performance, 12,630 young people received high state and FDJ distinctions. Among them were 10 youth brigade members who were awarded the title "hero of labor."

All the youth in our country has contributed to these important successes since the Eighth Party Congress. Especially great has been the share, however, which the working youth has had in them. It being the decisive force of GDR youth, it always is out in front of all youth through its creativity and

energy while it, responsibly and with much initiative, takes care of the demanding tasks placed upon it, together with the older class comrades, by consolidating its class standpoint. Those FDJ youth brigades have proven themselves particularly here which are more and more playing the role of shock troops, as Lenin called them, in socialist competition. Time and again the youth brigades have proven this: "Socialist competition forms a high degree of social responsibility -- for its own development, the collective, the enterprise and indeed for our country as a whole. It promotes creative thought, contesting for the best values, unprejudiced receptivity to the best experiences, critical approaches to unsolved questions, comradely aid, conscientiousness, pleasure in work, love for order, pride in what has been achieved and integrity."³

One of the Best Traditions of the FDJ

The history and struggle of the FDJ under SED leadership are inseparably connected with what outstanding youth brigades have done in all domains of public life. Many climactic events all the way back to the time that the youth organization was established testify to their achievements. Youth brigades in 1946 answered the call of what was then the Thuringia state parliament for the reforestation and salvaging of thousands of hectares of woodland. In 1948, at the First Young Activists Congress in Zeitz, they responded with enthusiasm to the demand raised by Erich Honecker, the co-founder and long-time chairman of the FDJ, to turn the activists' movement into a youth mass initiative, and already one year later, at the Second Young Activists Congress in Erfurt, came up with new ideas. In 1950, youth brigades called for attracting many young people to the miner's occupation. The first inter-plant competition was launched by the Brandenburg steel and rolling mill together with the Berlin steel construction enterprise, and in 1952, the youth brigades of the East metallurgical combine initiated the first occupational competitions. In 1954 in Leipzig, at the Young Brigadeers Congress, youth brigades distinguished themselves by proposing the conclusion of brigade contracts between plant management and youth brigades. In 1957, the Congress of GDR Labor Youth in Magdeburg passed guidelines for the work of the youth brigades, and in 1959 the youth complex brigade "Nikolai Mamai" of the Bitterfeld VEB electrochemical combine took an outstanding initiative in the "work, study and live socialistically" movement and appealed for the contest for the title of "brigade of socialist work."

The youth brigades' work, so rich in traditions, continued in the exchange of experience at the 1968 "Young Pacemakers' Congress" in Zeitz, through the first collective's gaining the distinction of "Distinguished Inventor" and then of course to the 1975 Working Youth Congress.

The youth brigades have been and are in the front rank of all those who, in central youth projects at economic focal points, justify by what they do the confidence the party of the working class has placed in them. Names our ears have become accustomed to assume a symbolic meaning for what the youth

brigades are doing: The Sosa dam, Max Needs Water, the Schwedt petroleum processing plant, the Trattendorf powerplant, the East metallurgical combine, Friedland's Big Meadow, the North nuclear power plant, the Druzhba Line, and many others in-between.

The FDJ, together with the FDGB, has always paid special attention to the education and political-ideological reinforcement of the youth brigades. They and their FDJ groups are, after all, the decisive foundation for what the youth organization does in the enterprises. Right now it is so that, after all, 29.9 percent of all members in industry and construction is working in youth brigades. FDJ decisions are being applied in direct production. Here is where political conversations are held, suggestions for improving labor organization are discussed, debates are carried on about gaining mastery over science and technology, and various intensification measures come under consideration.

The plan is met and exceeded in the brigades when all members, through the influence of the FDJ chief, the brigade chief, older, more experienced comrades as well as unaffiliated colleagues, have been turned into a socialist collective and seek to remain one on a permanent basis. In constant struggle for fulfilling the plan tasks and achieving competition targets and in the struggle for gaining the title of "collective of socialist work," there are forming more and more within the youth brigades the very characteristics and modes of thought and conduct that are appropriate to working class morality, and conscientious, honest and socially useful work is done which the party has characterized in its program as the innermost core of the socialist way of life.

There are also sometimes tough, even though comradely, arguments carried on in the FDJ groups of the brigades with those, for instance, who place their own interest above that of the collective or society, or who fail to respect work discipline. But that only means that in the youth brigades a socialist attitude toward work does not develop spontaneously either, that socialist personalities do not automatically develop with their proper thoughts and actions. All good results in productive labor, in political and technical skills, and in the training and satisfaction of varied spiritual-cultural interests depend on constant and attentive political-ideological activity by the FDJ and trade union leadership led by the party organizations, and they also depend on their being energetically supported, in line with the youth law requirements, by the state and economic functionaries in the combines, enterprises and departments.

Experiences have proven that high achievements on a permanent basis come especially from those youth brigades that always show a fulfillment and targeted overfulfillment of the plan, in which the young comrades act as models, are skilled achievers, engage in political discussions with the other brigade members and evade no debate. For that reason the experienced and seasoned communists in the enterprises should give their special attention to the thousands of the best young workers who joined the party ranks through

the FDJ's Party Congress Initiative. Then they will be able, on the basis of their own experiences and with the support from the older comrades, to enforce still more successfully the party policy in the brigades.

The political leadership of the youth brigades and permanently checking up on their place within socialist competition and on the political situation in the collectives, and cadre development -- to mention only a few factors -- are matters gaining still greater importance for FDJ leadership and the economic functionaries in the enterprises because they have, particularly in recent years, become a genuine mass phenomenon. The number of youth brigades went up, for instance, from 15,685 with 199,725 members in 1971 to 26,006 with 300,195 members in late 1975. This means the political and economic potential the youth brigades amount to for the fulfillment of the demanding tasks toward the further shaping of the developed socialist society has risen enormously. That one can also find stated in the SED Central Committee report to the Ninth Party Congress: "A young generation is growing up in our country which, together with the older people, has already achieved great things. Accomplishing great achievements will be all the more what we may expect from the future, for our Ninth Party Congress is coming out with a program offering youth the prospect of communism."⁴

Our Goal -- 10,000 New Youth Brigades

The "FDJ Assignment Ninth Party Congress" summons the youth brigades, as strong socialist action communities of the FDJ, again to excel in the implementation of the Ninth Party Congress resolutions and of the appeals directed at the FDJ by Comrade Erich Honecker's enthusiastic speech, along those lines, at the 10th Parliament. This "Ninth Party Congress" obligation contract, in total conformity with the GDR youth law, reaffirms the objective of the GDR's Working Youth Congress of October 1975 to establish 10,000 additional youth brigades in the course of the current Five-Year Plan.

It is a realistic objective because it proceeds from possibilities and experiences. It is likely that in some places one must still surmount the prevailing notion that the technological process would presumably not permit the formation of further youth brigades. Wherever in enterprises one has taken a long-range view on newly establishing and encouraging youth brigades, there also then is continuity and there are new results, as has become clear, along with many similar experiences, in Brandenburg Kreis.

Starting with the plan discussion, plan elaboration and the formulation of a youth promotion plan, the state and economic functionaries together with the FDJ should attempt to lead the process of youth brigade development. A merely numerical growth or merely combining young workers in a brigade is not enough. Much more is needed! There must be clear ideas on which young workers are to constitute a collective, which production sector is to be assigned to them, who is to be the brigade chief, which older and more experienced workers are to work with them, and what help the collective is to get from all enterprise managements. And then, of course, a successful development of such a brigade largely depends on the work of its FDJ group.

At Magdeburg's power plant construction VEB, for example, youth brigades have for some time made contracts with apprentices on what their future work in those collectives should be. That encourages the apprentices in their work and assures the brigades of new members. In the Berlin housing construction combine there are apprenticeship brigades with experienced senior workers in them; once the training is completed, they are set up as youth brigades. A similar organization prevails in the Ernst Thaelmann combine for heavy machine construction in Magdeburg. In order to ensure a smoothly flowing development of existing youth brigades, and as compensation for members who leave, apprentices are brought into these collective while they are still in their last year of training for their occupations. That kind of assignment for them is subject to the joint decision by the FDJ, trade union and state executives. A sponsor is in charge of those apprentices. He helps them in rapidly finding their way into the collective, get up to the appropriate level of expertise and stand on their own feet in the FDJ group. The Wilhelm Pieck Mansfeld Combine systematically forms from existing brigades leaders of future youth brigades. Furthermore also, delegating experienced members of a brigade to forming new youth brigades has been found useful more and more.

Picking up an experience of the Leninist Komsomol, the FDJ in many enterprises fosters the activity of the youth brigades by "youth brigadier councils." In the Soemmerda office machinery plant there is such a council which is made up of youth brigadiers, trade union agents, FDJ functionaries, state executives and experienced innovators. The council helps organize exchange of experience and performance comparisons, provides regular information on plan activities, and it supports the brigade functionaries in their advanced training.

Rapidly Drawing General Rules From Good Precedents

With their creative impulses and wealth of ideas the youth brigades today are significantly involved in the FDJ's effective intensification initiatives: the Fair of the Masters of Tomorrow, a fuller use of basic investments, the saving of labor time, the material economy campaign, the implementation of the housing construction program, involvement in socialist economic integration and the introduction of industrialized production methods to agriculture.

Many of the various ideas for competition in the youth brigades stem from a deep comprehension of economic interconnections, from an intention to exceed the plan, and from the realization that the main task can be consistently fulfilled only through a strong improvement in economic performance. As examples one may refer here to the youth initiative at the Soviet-German Corporation Wismut to "work one day a month with saved material only," to the extra plan quotas of many of the 102 youth brigades at the Druzhba Line for gaining honorary brigade membership, to the exemplary struggle by the "Hermann Duncker" collective in Magdeburg's "Ernst Thaelmann" VEB for heavy machine construction on behalf of a 20-hour capacity use of its installations per working day, to the competition for the title "best quality worker,"

the sense of community on the part of many brigades in the completing of construction or the conversion of apartments for their members, or the "FDJ Quality Guarantee" movement in the Ruhla clock combine, where young workers themselves took on the supervision of their own work. And it also speaks for the energy of the youth brigades that 58 of them stated their intention to participate in the new centralized youth project called "FDJ Berlin Initiative" even while the 10th Parliament was in progress.

In sum, this is what the work of these youth collectives confirms: Their initiatives are called by various campaign names, yet they are all aimed at further strengthening the GDR. That today is more than ever a matter of taking a class-bound stance, of patriotic and internationalist persuasion, revolutionary thought and great personal dedication. It is a point of honor for the young workers to gage their efforts against the achievements of the best. Also in those terms, the daily work of the youth brigades corroborates: "The further development of the working class mainly comes through the struggle for improving labor productivity, for implementing the scientific-technical revolution, in socialist competition, in the innovator movement, in the workers' active participation in the management, planning and further improvement of socialist democracy. An increasingly stronger development of creativity, initiative, collective spirit, zeal for education, a sense of social responsibility, mutual aid and a cultural mode of life is part of it."⁵

That statement in the party program at the same time underscores the character of labor in socialism. Labor it is which, because of its role and position, largely determines our socialist way of life. In it and through it men's cooperative relations develop, which Karl Marx called an additional productive force producing "a zest for contest and a stirring of their own lively spirits that will elevate the capabilities of the individual."⁶

Within the collective of a youth brigade a young worker can best demonstrate what is in him and the degree to which he assumes responsibility for the commonweal. Mainly the collective spirit as a source of socialist thought and action, the common objective, passing one's test in labor, collective contests for the best possible labor organization, praise and helpful criticism, communal experiences during leisure -- all those matters are foundations for a creative atmosphere and effective work embodied in the youth brigades which turned them into the criterion for good FDJ work.

We may cite one of the striking statements made during the live discussions of the 10th Parliament here. Our young friend Winfried Franken, head of the "World Peace" collective in the Boxberg power plant, said there: "If we are successful in our work it does not mean everything goes smoothly and without contradictions in our work. We have found out in our FDJ collective that merely giving out assignments is not enough. Rather, the FDJ has to see to it that everyone gets his assignment that challenges him and enables him to make a great contribution to the whole."⁷

The FDJ and FDGB together ought to continue seeing to it that the proven methods of successful work in youth brigades are widely used. They include, for example, creative plans on a personal and collective basis, accords on promotional contracts for brigade members and competitions within and beyond the enterprise.

That at the same time makes a high spiritual demand on each and every member of the brigade and presupposes steady and persuasive political-ideological work by the FDJ group. Only when young workers appropriate the world-outlook of their class, and by their participation in socialist construction, they become socialist personalities. That reinforces their love for work and for the people's property and their will to augment social wealth. It will continue to be the FDJ's principal concern to see to it, jointly with its partners, the FDJG, plant managers and the youth brigades themselves, that general rules are drawn from all good experiences of vital competition which life itself produces. That is probably going to be most successful when tasks are rendered more concrete and detailed and when the work of the brigades -- as well as the thousands still to be founded -- come under political direction. Then they will make a still more prominent showing in communist education and continue to be the forgers of the youth organization, the party, the state and the economy.

The "German Titow" youth brigade in the "Walter Ulbricht" Leuna Plants has already been in existence for 17 years. Comrade Arno Moerl, an experienced communist who headed the brigade until 1975, loves to recall those years when he worked with those young workers. Five members became party or FDJ functionaries in their main occupations, 30 became party members, 14 assumed an activity as masters of socialist industry, and seven graduated from engineering schools. It speaks for the experienced worker Arno Moerl and the FDJ group of the brigade that the work over all those years has been consistent and that younger workers kept getting into the collective. Today the brigade has truly socialist labor traditions. Eight times it was awarded the title "collective of socialist labor," and it was awarded the Artur Becker Medal in gold, the distinction "Outstanding GDR Youth Collective," and that of "Distinguished Inventor."

Promoting youth brigades means long-range stipulations laid down in enterprise planning documents. It is the task of FDJ, trade union and state management always to proceed from the economic task provisions for the youth brigades, to ensure in time the arrangements for future members of the collective, to recruit experienced senior workers for participation in the brigades, and to assist in the elaboration of high competitive goals.

Promoting youth brigades means strengthening their FDJ groups. There is the place where a brigade member would expect to be able to deepen his knowledge of SED policy and of the development of socialist society in the world, to get answers to his political questions and to prove himself at work and during leisure. Here it is where the young worker expects help in solving his personal problems. He expects trust and is ready in turn to assume responsibility for others.

Promoting youth brigades means systematic rejuvenation of the collectives. For that, each brigade itself has a great responsibility. New young people primarily come out of vocational training. Youth brigades ought to conclude, with support by the teachers, still more extensive promotional contracts with apprentices. That would steadily improve the quality of training and provide the future young specialist with long-range preparation for his brigade membership.

Promoting youth brigades means exemplary cultural and educational work. There is a great value in qualification accords concluded for some time by many plant managements with brigade members. As a rule they include political and technical advanced training and measures in preparation for managerial functions as brigade chief, master-worker or engineer. That also includes giving further training to the brigade functionaries. They, after all, are the ones who have to answer the questions they get from the brigade members directly. It is gratifying that in many kreises the FDJ and the FDGB already run monthly "schools for young leaders." There brigade chiefs are exchanging their work experiences and become familiar with the methods of labor management.

Pursuant to the proposal made by Comrade Erich Honecker at the 10th Parliament, the FDJ will sponsor every year during the "youth and sports week" in the enterprises, jointly with the FDGB and the state executives, a "Youth Brigade Day." On that day the best achievements will be singled out, new competition commitments will be initiated, interesting experiences will be exchanged and cultural events be held. That also will recognize the great political and economic achievements by the youth brigades. Their reputation will grow further and be a spur to all young workers.

FOOTNOTES

1. Comrade Erich Honecker, "Bericht des Zentralkomitees der Sozialistischen Einheitspartei Deutschlands an den IX. Parteitag der SED" (SED Central Committee Report to the Ninth SED Congress), Dietz publishing house, Berlin, 1976, p 134.
2. Ibid., p 133.
3. Egon Krenz, "FDJ Central Council Report to the 10th Parliament," JUNGE WELT, 2 June 1976.
4. Comrade Erich Honecker, op. cit., p 133.
5. "Programm der Sozialistischen Einheitspartei Deutschlands" (SED Program), Dietz publishing house, Berlin, 1976, pp 37-38.
6. Karl Marx, "Das Kapital," Vol 1, Marx/Engels, "Werke" (Works), Vol 23, Dietz publishing house, Berlin, 1962, p 345.
7. JUNGE WELT, 3 June 1976.

EAST GERMANY

SOCIALIST-REALIST ART, SEARCH FOR TALENT DISCUSSED

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[Article by Dr Werner Kuehn, secretary, Council for Culture under Minister
for Culture: "Artistic Talent To Be Demanded and Promoted"]

[Text] After the Ninth Party Congress documents have now staked out our targets and tasks, it is once more appropriate to think about providing a firm foundation for all prospective culture and art production through systematic and responsible work with creative talents and the young artists' generation. Training and education, a demanding and encouraging policy of giving commissions, an expansion of the field of experience, and the development of genuine partnerships and of a critical public are the principal ways for establishing creative conditions and interesting opportunities for meeting the criteria involved.

In the realization that socialist-realist art creation has an important part in the shaping of the developed socialist society, our new party program has posed this task: "The SED supports all efforts aimed at the blossoming of socialist-realist art."¹ That entails discovering, promoting, training and shaping all cultural and artistic abilities and talents among the people. For in our experience, the development of the arts, as the program continues, calls for "an atmosphere characterized by highly ideal, moral and esthetic demands on the creators of art, a sympathetic attitude toward the artists and the promotion of all talents."² The development and promotion of a young artists' generation is a social responsibility in our republic. Involved in that are many artists and creators of culture, their affiliations, the youth organization, the trade unions and the Culture League. They were subject of discussion by the Council for Culture under the Minister for Culture. Its results are also included in the following presentation.

A Salient Point

High regard for artistic creativity and talent, in our socialist society, finds a logical expression in our art development as in our social development all around -- it being an expression and element of true humanity, true freedom.

Our art will and must constantly develop and renew itself. This it must also do, particularly, by finding and training young people with talent. Our art -- just as our republic -- is a joint effort by several generations. The young generation can enrich it by many indispensable features, new ideas, subject matters, new sounds and colors. Manifold new impulses come to it from the young generation. The outstanding place occupied by the young artists in our cultural life and their responsibility for our art development were recently elaborated by the FDJ's culture conference and especially also by the 10th FDJ Parliament. The more we advance socially and the true freedom of man and the human wealth of his relations reveal themselves in practice, and the more ever new generations take an active part in it, the more strongly socialist realism demonstrates its vitality, assurance in the future and variety.

Whereas in former revolutionary transformations the "positive, creative aspect of organizing the new society" (Lenin) remained a privilege of the minority, socialism challenges the independent creativity of the masses and opens to the majority of the working people a field of activity "in which they can excel, develop their abilities, and reveal those talents which are created by the people, an inexhaustible source, and which capitalism had squelched, repressed and strangled a thousand and million times"³ or abused for its own antihuman ends and purposes.

In the "all round development of the abilities and talents of personality for the good of the individual and of the whole socialist society" whereby, in the planned development of the socialist way of life in the GDR, "one of the noblest aims of the revolutionary labor movement" is brought to realization, as it is stated in the party program,⁴ we are at once facing a "salient point," to use an expression by Johannes R. Becher, for the development of culture and art. Social and art development here find their common, realistically humanistic foundation and objective.

After the Ninth Party Congress documents have now staked out our targets and tasks, it is once more appropriate to think about providing a firm foundation for all prospective culture and art production through systematic and responsible work with creative talents and the young artists' generation. Therefore, of all the questions in planning and all long-range considerations about culture and art in the developed socialist society, we probably have to deal most thoroughly with what the artists are to look like who will in the future decide what artistic discoveries are to be made that are meant to contribute to enriching socialist art and social reality, so that it can be up to them to provide the kind of level in our art life that will do justice to the increasing demands by the developed socialist society and to the international position of the GDR.

Thus, what we today do or fail to do in finding cultural-artistic talents, in their highly skilled training and advanced training, their communist education, social promotion and challenge, will largely decide on the greatness and variety of our literature and our visual arts, the validity and variety of our music and theater life, the opportunities for film and television drama of tomorrow, as much as on the artistic-cultural look of our new architectural design, cultured housing, and the norms for environmental and industrial design. All this clearly indicates the measure of our responsibility today for recognizing in time and developing over a long range all talents beginning with the preschool and school age and youth all the way to fully matured artistry.

Discovering Talent -- A Cause For All Society

It is in the interest of our socialist society not to let any talent lie fallow or wither away. Any undiscovered or neglected artistic gift is a loss to the culture of the developed socialist society.

Wherever, as in our own country, real humanism determines life, it is not merely a matter of personal interest or in the interest of a cultural institution to discover and train talents. The contribution to, and effectiveness in, this matter, success or failure, mainly hinge on if and to what extent all society commits itself to it, how much each individual feels involved in it -- parents and teachers, training and NVA officers, brigade chiefs and master-workers, FDJ or trade union functionaries, mayors, community hall directors, or theater directors. Artistic talents merit the openmindedness and care by schools, work collectives, cultural institutions, and by the leaders in all social fields and on all levels whom the society has charged with responsibility for the development of men. Such attention and regard for artistic talents also help overcome the inhibition that many pupils and young people have to express themselves artistically in public, helping not only enlarge the number of discoveries but also discover the genuine talents, so that extant abilities will be better appreciated and evaluated. What we are concerned with here is a further improvement of the social atmosphere, fruitfully developed by our party in recent years, that is hospitable to art, and that has found its distinctive mark in that the finding and promoting of talent has become a naturally accepted need, so that recognition and satisfaction result when someone says: "This one I discovered, that one I have promoted, and him I have directed onto the right course."

We have had considerable success in this field which we are proud of. Yet that is only one reason why we should not close our eyes to the fact that much remains to be done. An analysis of applications received by art schools and art colleges, for example, indicates that we have by no means succeeded in attracting enough highly gifted young people to studying art.

A broader approach is needed for finding talents. Above all, the proven methods for finding talents must be further developed and more systematically used through a close collaboration between state and social forces, and in some

places they still have to be properly applied in the first place: the FDJ song movement and its poetry seminars, weekly "youth dance music" workshops and the friendship galleries and the young talents festivals. We should altogether much more strongly regard popular art in all its breadth and inexhaustible variety as a reservoir for artistic talents. A purposeful implementation of the far-sighted determination by the FDJ culture conference of last year, to the effect that our socialist youth organization feels a greater responsibility now for delegating the best people in the FDJ talent movement for studies at advanced and technical schools, surely will have visible effects on attracting suitable young people. All such social possibilities and activities should be tackled everywhere in close cooperation with all social forces and state organs and be actively supported by the creators of culture.

Initial experiences in the implementation of the agreement between the Minister of Culture and the Minister of Public Education, to the effect that gifted pupils interested in the arts should undergo a preparatory examination for qualifying for studies at art or technical schools while they are still in 9th grade, show that new possibilities are being tapped for tracking down artistic talents more systematically, earlier and on an overall social scale. In the preparatory examinations of the 1975 winter vacations, 585 pupils were chosen from a total of 1,372, as qualified, and 128 as especially qualified, for further promotional measures. The ratio between these figures and the number of 6,000 high schools, normally having several 9th grade classes, indicates that here many a talent can still possibly be discovered. The best experiences made in the implementation of this agreement should therefore be regularly exploited by the local state organs and the institutions of culture and public education, and general rules should be drawn from them through exchange of experiences and publication in the daily and specialized press.

Anyone who ever had to make a decision on the pro and con of the developmental potential of a talent knows of the practical importance of the criteria and characteristics of an artistic gift or, putting it more precisely, of the artist's personality structure, his "artistic subjectivity" (Marx). Accurate knowledge about it, as the experiences of the Soviet Union and of other socialist countries have demonstrated, meets the risk of judging young people merely on a subjectivistic, purely emotional, basis and prevents erroneous assessments. We should also intensify interdisciplinary scientific work in that direction that would include perhaps psychologists, pedagogs, artists and estheticians. That would be of benefit to the selection of talents as well as to training for international peak performances.

Only when there is a piano can a pianist apply himself, and a violinist, only when there is a violin. The discovery and development of a talent also call for systematically making the instruments needed available. We ought to think about the fact, thoroughly and comprehensively, that our social progress also brings up new questions about the structure of cultural needs, their development and satisfaction, which require new answers. Deliberations

are called for with regard to further improving the setup and decor of clubs and clubhouses, apartments and schools and with regard to the structure and tasks of our cultural life in connection with our enormous urban construction. Prescient thought is what is wanted, a focus on new developmental problems.

Training and Education

The discovery of new talent of course is not the whole thing. Artistic gifts grow and blossom mainly through the use of artistic means, in the confrontation with art and reality. They also can dry up, unless they are adequately promoted and challenged. Any excessive expectations, on the other hand, can be as detrimental as disregard or levelling.

It has been and is the concern of our art academies and colleges to train young artists who can make our society, the lives of all of us, more beautiful and richer. Between 1966 and 1970, a total of 3,950 young people successfully completed their art studies, between 1971 and 1975, as many as 4,325 art graduates entered art occupations. At present, 7,597 young people are studying art in full-time, correspondence or evening courses.

In teaching, training and education great progress has been made in recent years, laying a sound foundation for continuing systematic improvements. Thus the advanced and technical school teachers attention went more and more to the personality development of their art students -- their expertise in finest artistic achievements, their appropriation of the scientific world-outlook of Marxism-Leninism and their conscious acting on behalf of the whole, the interests of socialism.

To this end, basic studies also are of special importance at the art institutes in the field of Marxism-Leninism -- and this not as a specially adapted or merely supplementary addition to this or that field of art, for Marxism-Leninism is an overall science and must be studied as such. What we are concerned with is a scientifically sound, historically concrete and visually effective basic study program, with an abundance of problems, that will convince the mind of incipient artists and more their hearts. Acting at our art institutes in the spirit of the Ninth Party Congress means placing special attention on the students' communist education and doing what we can so that they will engage in their art occupations with great technical skill and as convinced patriots and ardent internationalists.

No longer are the art colleges and institutions "pedagogic islands." Thanks to the joint efforts made by training institutions and art facilities, artists associations, the art trade union, the Arts Academy and the Ministry of Culture, they are in the center of our dynamic art development. This also connects the process of education and training more intimately with the development and general creativity problems in art occupations. Through their own art projects and the art students' early contact with the places in which they will later work (theaters, orchestras, publishing houses, libraries,

museums and workshops), or by the students' participating in the housing construction program's concrete tasks in the visual and applied arts, good preconditions were created for their artistic development and qualifications, which is systematically being further developed.

The party influence on the educational and training process was strengthened mainly also by having innumerable experienced and successful artists take on the function of art teachers, which is not easy and steals a lot of time, whereby they can pass on their valuable experiences to the next artists' generation.

Through this close combination between training and practice, the curricula and teaching programs also acquired a better quality, which must now stand up on a permanent basis. Part of this practical tie-in also is the close contact with the general cultural life in the republic. The FDJ's Cultural Conference requirement, "each art student a culture functionary of the FDJ," is an orientation that at once serves to further improve the cooperation among the state executives, the youth organization, the trade unions and the Culture League, which is of benefit to our whole cultural life. Thus studies will increasingly create better foundations for artistic individuality and social coresponsibility to be able to fully unfold.

Young Artists -- To Be Demanded and Promoted in Their Art Work

Often many years pass for artistic gifts to solidify, prove themselves and, as one usually says, prevail. Thus one must understand the finding and training of talent and its proving itself in the country's art life as a reciprocal unity. All state and social forces must steadily look out for fruitful living and working conditions for the young artists -- for the graduates of art colleges and institutes as for debutants and all who have proven talent and the will to perform.

Our socialist state has created a sound basis of material foundations for them. Generous promotion measures by the state, not last the one promulgated on 8 November 1973, based on the decision by the Council of Ministers and called "measures for the improvement of the living and working conditions of authors and artists," facilitate starting conditions for our young artists that are unprecedented in our country. Especially it is also up to the local state organs to make our young art school graduates indulge the solicitude of our society in their being aided and integrated into the life of the territory.

Along with the promotion and material backing comes the social demand made on the young artists, which must be a challenge to their talent and skill, their capabilities and their wish and will. Every promotional measure is always also a requirement and a demand placed on the young artist as it is one placed on the social forces, the territorial state organs and the cultural institutions.

There are many ways for establishing creative conditions and interesting proving grounds for young artists. The chief ones appear to be the following:

Through our commissions' policy we encourage the talents in all art fields. One goal of our commissions' policy is to further the young artists in their artistry and to endorse them, to bring them into their own and firmly to integrate them with all working people in our country. And here it is of special importance for the young artists that agreement is established about fundamental ideological-esthetic concerns and that the necessary leeway is preserved for their independent creative solutions. Respect for the young personality, the artistic individuality, and cautious guidance are decisive preconditions for the development of a young artists' personality.

When those who give the commissions and the artists work together, then a spiritual atmosphere is created where the feeling of being needed most productively changes into active participation, and where a strong sense of responsibility, the awareness for what the society expects and demands of the young artists, develops and consolidates. The enterprises, above all, ought to conclude promotional contracts with young artists which would set down clearly delineated ideological-cultural policy and art objectives and requirements.

The decision whether or not someone should be entrusted with a project largely also of course depends on the proposal a young artist himself makes, and on whether he has indeed something to say that is uniquely his own, something important that is needed by society. It is not enough merely to be a graduate who is familiar with his field. That is something the society would expect of a graduate in the first place. He must also be able to come forth with his own, creative propositions.

For testing and forming socialist artist personalities, a constant expansion of their field of experience is especially important. Today that chiefly means sensing and working out within oneself the unity of socialist patriotism and proletarian internationalism.

The blossoming and rapprochement among socialist nations, the consolidation of the socialist community of states, that example for a future world community of free and equal nations, is a historic process, a basic experience and artistic challenge of lasting effect. That is the reason why young artists ought to get involved more firmly in the life of working youth and why they must become more deeply familiar with the young people's world of experience, especially that of the young workers.

All young artists should be urged to become curious about people, about how they stand up to life, their thoughts, feelings and actions, their habits and conduct. It is more timely than ever today to ask: Look at the workers and how they run the economy and guide the state, how they, a liberated and ruling class, learn and live, at what they love and what they hate. That kind of curiosity must be comprehended as the basic prerequisite for the creation of art -- solidarity with life as a creative principle. Many still lack the ability

to comprehend the essence of social processes, to properly relate and assess manifestations and experiences. It is especially this ability which, therefore, has to be developed.

All talent needs fellowship, friends, a group or collective, out of which and within which it can develop its individuality, through harmony as well as contest. Our young artists generation needs understanding, responsible and exemplary partners in its struggle for firm positions from where it can help shape our socialist present and communist future consciously and artistically, which also includes the critical polemics against attitudes and manifestations that have to be overcome. For the benefit of such collectivity it is important to promote labor friendship organizations -- via the affiliations and also through art facilities like publishing houses, theaters, orchestras and so forth, as it is precisely the encouragement or criticism from an experienced colleague who holds a firm place in our life and who is a respected and perhaps even admired friend, which can effectively lead to advances.

The further formation of a relationship of social trust, a creative climate, the formation of genuine criteria -- all that develops in the public use of art. The public is a kind of mother earth nurturing an atmosphere favorable to art. The demand to create more possibilities for young artists to confront the public with samples of their talent and the demand for high quality are reciprocally related.

Encouraging a young artist also means instilling courage in him, giving him self-confidence. There are times when deficiencies and weaknesses in his creative work become clear to him only through a public discussion. Through genuine debate a climate is generated in which encouragement and criticism are well balanced and blend, and that exactly is what makes them productive. What is needed is the greatest possible caution in dealing with the "most sensitive of all stuff" (Mayakovski), the talent that has not yet found its bearings in its mission and possibilities. That kind of debate aids the young artist in coming to a sincere self-assessment.

If one talks about publicity as basis for encouraging the young artists generation the point mainly is to relate young art to the everyday of our cultural life, to provide social attention, respect and evaluation for it. Much as is already being done in that regard, more new possibilities must be explored and tried out, as is the case, for example, right now with our small galleries.

New Basic Experiences and Spiritual Dimensions

The best accomplishments by our young artists, in literature, theater, the visual arts, music, movies and television programs, reflect a high moral demand as well as a deep understanding of socialist reality. Young artists in our country are facing the novel task of having to learn to control the co-shaping function of their art, the exercise of power through the contribution by their art. In that they can rely on the experience, knowledge and will of all of society, with the working class and its Marxist-Leninist party in the

lead. Many young artists ponder the meaning of life and want to help reveal it to man, want to enrich him and make him more active, want to induce him to thinking things out further. For that they need practical experience and theoretical analysis, ideological certitude and a firm political standpoint. To seek one's bearings from the working class, its struggle, its ideals and aspirations implies the study of the theory of Marxism-Leninism and implies testing, over and over again, one's own work in the light of that theory and exposing it continuously to the judgment by the working class, its vanguard and all the people.

Our young artists of today are helping form and shape a time as pregnant with the future as no youth has ever seen or handled. They are so fortunate to be children and coshapers of that epoch in which the transition from capitalism to socialism is taking place on a worldwide basis and to live at a time in which the struggle for permanent peace has strong bastions. There are in all this premises and opportunities for entirely new fundamental experiences and new dimensions for young artists. A young person would be well advised to focus early on the dynamics of the world revolutionary processes, on the unity of continuity and change, and to become a force himself that moves things along.

It is of special importance for our young artists, who work and live in a country where art is for everyone, to be completely clear about the relationship between politics and art, politics and culture. Our Ninth Party Congress has made convincingly clear, as has the 25th CPSU Congress and have the party congresses of the other fraternal parties, that this question today belongs among the most topical problems in gaining a deeper understanding of the inevitabilities in the construction of the developed socialist society and in the development of the socialist world system.

A high level of culture and art now does belong among the essential questions in the spiritual life of the people, of its wealth and self-awareness. Through their creative work young artists learn to understand the connection between the political struggle and the tasks and developmental perspectives of culture and art and hence, to determine their own position and task.

We are concerned with great spiritual questions of our times, questions of personality formation, and of the world of experience for generating effective works of art. Johannes R. Becher once said that talent would have to be joined by "passionate affect" in order to produce a good poem. "Passionate affect has to assume an appropriate form in order to grab other people with passion," he wrote in his "Power of Poetry."⁵ Here is the key for an approach to many creative problems.

The questions about one's own creations and about the place the artist occupies in his time also lead to multiple concerns with our art legacy and the dialectical unity between its serving as model and its criticism, the pursuit of it and the surmounting of it, tradition and innovation. In this sense, a creative relationship with the legacy corresponds to the desire of young artists to find their own position, to find themselves. Our art legacy is a sort of production experience for our young artists; it has to be acquired time and again. And that calls for advice, understanding and partnership.

The young artist enjoys a vast scale of creative opportunities, of learning and comparing, in our country, and is greatly stimulated by society. The most important achievement for him lies in life itself which, in our socialist state, is favorably inclined toward his art, ties itself to it, allies itself with it -- being the life of socialist man with his wealth, developments and also his difficulties.

It depends on the degree of involvement in the contemporary revolutionary struggles and processes, on its understanding of the lessons of history and its skill in the arts, what the contribution can be that young art will make to our people's and its youth's self-awareness in our time, and whether and how our socialist-realist art of tomorrow will worthily continue the great works and ideas in our tradition and of our present age and ripen into an art conforming to the developed socialist society and the communist future.

FOOTNOTES

1. "Programm der Sozialistischen Einheitspartei Deutschlands" (SED Program), Dietz publishing house, Berlin, 1976, p 51.
2. Ibid., p 52.
3. V. L. Lenin, "How To Organize Competition," "Werke" (Works), Vol 26, Dietz publishing house, Berlin, 1961, p 402.
4. "Programm der Sozialistischen Einheitspartei Deutschlands," loc. cit., p 56.
5. Johannes R. Becher, "Macht der Poesie--Poetische Konfession," Part II, Aufbau publishing house, Berlin, 1955, p 56.

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EAST GERMANY

METHODS OF ECONOMIC MASS PROPAGANDA DISCUSSED

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[Article by Klaus Gaebler, philosophy graduate, deputy department chief in SED Central Committee: "How Can the Effectiveness of Economic Propaganda Be Further Increased"]

[Text] The results of the Ninth SED Congress are more and more becoming the working basis for millions of working people. Long-range perspectives and demanding tasks have released new initiatives and activities in socialist competition. Numerous personal and collective obligations express the fact that the targets posed by this Party Congress are in full agreement with the people's social interests. It is important to make everyone in our country aware of that agreement as impulse for social development, by means of all our ideological work, to promote it and, proceeding from it, bring about higher achievements, on the basis of which it will be possible ever better to satisfy the needs of the individual and of society alike.

This addresses itself of course to economic mass propaganda, one of the most important components of our ideological work, in particular. For it there opens up a vast field for targeted activity staked out by the Ninth Party Congress decisions. This demands new deliberations on how, on the basis of economic knowledge, one can more strongly still develop the socialist attitudes, especially personal dedication. A consistent continuation of the main task in its unity between economic and social policy relies on such a strong increase in economic performance, which is above all a "demand on the diligent and creative work, the skill and responsibility of each and everyone."¹ This demand also calls for a broad application of the good experiences made in ideological party work in recent years, mainly also of those that were gained in economic mass propaganda in the enterprises, and those are the ones that are to be dealt with here in greater detail.

In material production, the basis of our subsistence, the most essential preconditions for overall social progress develop. Here those funds and means are created which are needed for increasing social and individual consumption, for developing housing construction, science and technology,

culture, public education and health, and for the full unfolding of human personality. To gain a conscious grasp of the objective connection between performance and the satisfaction of needs as it truly is and with its concrete economic requirements, to represent the reciprocity between increase in economic performance and social progress, and thereby to appeal to the individual in such a way that he becomes aware of his social responsibility and draws the appropriate conclusions with regard to his practical conduct, this is the most important concern of economic education and indoctrination.

Economic Propaganda Tasks

This is a many-layered ideological task. If one wants to achieve a great effectiveness of economic propaganda, it will be important to attribute decisive importance to the outstanding balance sheet in which the Party Congress took pride. The more firmly it is possible to anchor in public consciousness the positive changes that have taken place in the last 5 years in the social, and particularly in the economic, field, the more one will do on behalf of that certitude, that optimism and zeal, which provide the energy for the tasks to be solved. It was entirely in this spirit that Comrade Erich Honecker stated: "The value of what has been achieved lies, not last, in that it demonstrates to everyone what can be achieved, provided we consistently continue our essential work for the good of the people and turn today's best experiences into tomorrow's standard procedures."² If improved performance visibly affects the betterment of life, it strengthens the will for achievement and encourages the willingness to assume responsibility, think about better methods, tap reserves and take new initiatives. This is once again clearly demonstrated by the numerous new competition obligations in response to the joint decision by the SED Central Committee, the FDGB Executive Committee and the GDR Council of Ministers on further improving the working and living conditions for 1976 to 1980.

From that vantage point, a new dimension arises for Lenin's advice to base "all propaganda on the political experience of economic construction."³ The daily struggle for solving the economic tasks in the further shaping of the developed socialist society, by which at once fundamental preconditions are created for the gradual transition to communism, produces a wealth of new insights and useful experiences, which must be broadly propagated for the benefit of society and the individual. If the right propaganda use is made of good experiences and of what has been achieved, in terms of its social value, and if at the same time the overall view is expanded, it is possible to make clearly apparent the fundamental difference between the socialist social order that serves the good of man and the capitalist exploiter system with its devastating consequences for human existence. The constantly growing influence by socialism on continuing revolutionary developments in the world and its growing international importance are determined by many factors -- political, economic, moral and military ones. Among them a high rank must be given to the growing economic strength and the radiating power of socialism through the coordinated peace policy of the community of states rallied around the Soviet Union. That also must be clarified thoroughly through economic propaganda in order to make that power still more effective.

Equally important is to combine still more closely economic indoctrination with the struggle for fulfilling the concrete requirements contained in the "Ninth SED Congress Directive on the Five-Year Plan for GDR Economic Development 1976-1980" and to help in the communist ways and means of analyzing the causes for fulfilling or failing to fulfill the requirements. That plan offers a target and a direction for the working people's social action, especially to those in material production, which is the decisive sphere of human activity. Economic propaganda should help increase social activities and shape the sense of personal responsibility, so that all potentials will be aimed at reaching those goals and will be used for it at an ever increasing rate. By means of economic propaganda one must fully mobilize all impulses and spiritual-moral motivations, which arise from the fact that socialism "for the first time creates the possibility to lead the majority of the working people truly into a field of activity in which they can excel, develop their abilities, and reveal those talents which are created by the people, an inexhaustible source, and which capitalism had squelched, repressed and strangled a thousand and million times."⁴

In the work collectives, which are struggling for high achievements through socialist competition, the working people develop their creative forces. And there also lies the main field for ideological work. To do indoctrination work there, where the struggle is going on under the slogan "more of a use value out of every Mark, every hour labor time, every gram of material" for an all round fulfillment and targeted overfulfillment of the planning tasks and the counter-plan targets, that is mainly up to the communists. Especially there one ought to continue, consistently and purposefully, all that has been found useful since the Eighth Party Congress. Positive results have been achieved through various new forms and methods of competition, for example, through the personal and collective-creative plans of the workers, master-workers and engineers for increasing labor productivity. Attention also is invited for the best values achieved by initiative shifts and innovators, the engineering pass, the personal quality programs, the Masters of the Fair of Tomorrow movement, and the FDJ initiatives for saving of material. More and more working people are making their own "notes on the plan," proceeding from which they intend to make the production process still more rational and to enforce scientific labor organization. These analyses of the production process have brought it about that the workers are frankly and honestly taking a position on their own work and are making suggestions for performance improvements on their own part and for improving management activities, in order to meet the increased demands through mutual comradesly aid. This has in many collectives, along with providing a more meaningful and creative work atmosphere, also further enlivened the political atmosphere.

Thus competition and work collectives invite vivid ideological work which ought to provide the proper place for the basic questions of our economic policy. This also means informing the working people accurately about the planning tasks and interpreting the competition targets in terms of jobs and labor time. This was done, for example, in the "Fritz Heckert" VEB machine tool combine which has its management in Karl-Marx-Stadt. The main

purpose in pursuit of Lenin's understanding of the decisive role of labor productivity is focusing the various activities of the working people still more purposefully on the intensive economic growth factors. Intensification has already become a living experience for millions of working people and has been proven in practice as the main means for improving economic performance. Socialist intensification is a decisive factor for overall social progress. Intensively expanded reproduction results from the inner inevitabilities of our social order and is part and parcel of the economy in the developed socialist society. Steadily growing economic possibilities, the great potentials our country has and the significant funds made available for them are a convincing testimony for it. Proceeding from there, a greater degree of attention in ideological work has to be given to the 10 major emphasis tasks of our intensification.

The point now is to recognize the inner connection among all the tasks that relate to our intensification and to solve them in a complex manner. A priority task therefore is to take all these factors of production growth and "move them into the foreground of all our work on a still much broader basis and more thoroughly prepared and conceptualized than before. This then means comprehensively engaging in the struggle for high effectiveness in all our economic activity."⁵ The efforts should, for example, include the mobilization of such reserves of intensification as a capacity utilization of all basic means and equipment, especially the highly productive equipment involving the multi-shift system, a consistently scientific labor organization and a full capacity use of all investments. Reinforcing the working people in tracking down possibilities for lowering costs in all areas and for improving the qualities of products, since on that economic efficiency largely depends, is a standard component in all our ideological work.

For the further strengthening of the material-technical base on the road toward intensification, still greater importance attaches to the acceleration of scientific-technical progress and improving its economic and social effectiveness as a most general condition for our social advances. Scientific-technical progress is a key issue concerning everyone. The firm connection between the achievements of the scientific-technical revolution and the advantages of socialism can only come as result of a close alliance between science and technology and production, between the scientists and the workers, the engineers and the technicians. That, on the one hand, calls for a constantly growing responsibility on the part of the scientists. On the other hand, it requires high regard for science and the willingness and ability to apply scientific data in all domains of life (from 60 to 70 percent of the labor productivity increase within the next 5 years must come through the use made of new scientific-technical data). That alone would make apparent the importance of economic propaganda work and the need to draw general rules from its most effective forms, for the sake of giving it a broader spread. Thus mainly the role and experiences of the innovators and rationalizers, whose effects as models are extraordinary, ought to amount to an emphasis point in economic propaganda. Between 1971 and 1975 alone, the working people's share in the innovator movement rose from 19.2 to 29.4 percent. During that period,

2.4 million suggestions were handed in proposing a gain of M 16.7 billion. That makes evident how important it is to popularize the innovators' progressive work and production experiences, to emphasize their inventive spirit and to honor them as personalities in public.

Use All Good Experiences

Greater attention should be given, in conformity with their importance, to the enterprise conferences where the working people, especially the workers and the members of the intelligentsia, jointly confer on their scientific-technical work and on improving its level. These political and economic conferences can, as has been demonstrated in many enterprises, stimulate high increase rates in labor productivity. Experiences with such conferences in Dresden Bezirk, which focused in 1976 on the intensification concept up to 1980, are teaching us that socialist intensification reaches the necessary breadth and depth wherever it is organized by the party and, deliberately so, as a broad democratic process.

Many enterprises also have gathered interesting experiences through lecturers' councils. The "Werra" VEB potash plant, for example, is purposively using this tool of economic progress in the work collectives. There are 14 lecturers' councils with 116 volunteer associates who answer concrete questions from the working people concerning a better utilization of basic funds, the material economy, and the capacity use made of labor time, and thereby they also exercise a direct influence on the working people's initiatives and activities.

Suitable for presenting fundamental issues of the party's economic policy also are meetings of plant managers with various groups of working people. Economic cabinets, economic laboratories and bases for consultation, providing adequate attention for the concrete economic problems in the enterprises and for a permanent exchange of experience, are indicative of the greater effort that is being made in applying chiefly such forms, means and methods as would conform with the possibilities of the enterprise and systematically and purposefully involve the economic functionaries in economic propaganda. When in an enterprise the production workers themselves no longer assume tasks in economic propaganda, as is the case, for example, in the VEB-NARVA and in other Berlin enterprises, where the cost accountants control the cost curves in their own departments while seeing to it that every collective knows the costs of its particular product and tries to lower them, then it is possible to uncover, together with the state executives in the work collectives, even more important economic interconnections.

All these are weighty reasons for having the party organizations time and again look at the competition in the work collectives. Its importance and role goes still much farther, however. Competition is not only a strong lever for increasing the effectiveness of social labor, it also is an effective means for shaping moral attitudes, socialist personality characteristics. Discipline and organization, deliberately combining personal with social interests, a socialist

attitude toward work and public property, the innovator movement and a spirit of inventiveness, tenacity in the struggle against shortcomings and difficulties and the political responsibility borne by everybody in our country by the work he does are matters that are being formed in the labor process. All that is given expression in the "work, study and live socialistically" movement. "In it there are combined in an outstanding manner the conscious efforts on behalf of great economic results, the conscientious and honest work on behalf of society, as the core of the socialist way of life, and the creative appropriation of the world-outlook of the working class. That is the way for work becoming more and more a genuine vital need for socialist personalities."⁶

Economic propaganda is of great importance to shaping socialist attitudes. It is concerned with making everyone aware that also in the future an important experience of life will retain its validity, to the effect that only that can be consumed which first had to be produced. The more copious and valuable our people's socialist property is, the more the strengthening of the GDR will depend on how well we manage with what we have, how we foster and further it. Economic propaganda also helps shape another motive for work by which to inspire the working people -- work for the direct benefit of socialist society and the direct benefit of each and every one. It helps develop joy in work, willingness to work and creativity. It reinforces the working people's desire for order, security and conscious discipline and helps overcome still extant manifestations of violating work discipline and wasting property. It can make a significant contribution to making ideological education, work education and moral education into a firmly unified effective influence. With all this we remain mindful of the fact that the shaping of a socialist attitude toward work and property is a lengthy and complicated process. Ideological work must deal with this central question since it pertains, after all, to the innermost core of the socialist way of life.

Not Just Figures and Facts

The dissemination of economic knowledge is by no means confined to giving out figures or facts of economic development, but it is an element of our desire to reinforce the Marxist-Leninist world-outlook of the working people, deepen their insights into objective necessities and overall social interconnections, and to reach a better understanding of the basic law of socialism, the reciprocal effects between economics, politics and ideology. It is precisely the political economy of socialism which illuminates the economic and social nature of our system, the dialectics between productive forces and production relations, the goal and tasks of production and the character of labor. In showing clearly that the economic changes have a direct connection with the political power of socialism, it also shows what has to be done to beat our imperialist adversary in the field of economic competition.

Thus economic training and education significantly help the working people in looking more deeply into the objective inevitabilities of our socialist social order and in becoming aware of the importance of their work to the tasks to be solved today and in the future. That also improves the realization

that the results of their labor decisively contribute to our country's development and, with it, to making socialism more attractive on an international level. We can make our economic propaganda more effective by contrasting our own economic upward development with the exploitation and suppression under capitalism and with its frailties, which throws a sharper light on the magnitude and scope of the political struggle. If we then succeed in substantiating that our way is the right one, by showing the fundamental economic differences between socialism and capitalism and by contrasting socialist economic integration with capitalist integration, a persuasive ideological statement results.

The schools of socialist work, a form of consolidating the Marxist-Leninist world-outlook, are gaining ever greater importance. They find so much response because they are most intimately connected with the "work, study and live socialistically" movement and their subjects are treated in a practical manner relevant to industrial affairs. This form helps in treating important issues of economic policy within the overall framework of the curricula and in popularizing new production experiences, and it supports their application. Their effect on collective relations should not be underestimated. Discussions and conversations held in confidence within a collective that has reached much inner harmony through everyday work encourage a vivid and fruitful exchange of ideas which enhances labor and social activities and strengthens political positions. That the schools of socialist work have grown to more than 111,000 in numbers, with more than 2 million persons attending them, indicates how much store is set by them. The party organizations should continue their support of the schools of socialist work by sending volunteer discussion leaders there. This would actively involve many state and economic functionaries in ideological work.

Urania's popular science lecture activities in the enterprises are also gaining in importance. As the Sixth Urania Congress stated, the membership groups set up in recent years in 530 larger enterprises are standing up well. They are very effective wherever they disseminate a knowledge of the natural and technical sciences closely combined with fundamental issues of the political economy and with the party's economic policy. As experiences have demonstrated, these membership groups are doing good work in the enterprises in that they are performing a broadly spread and discriminating popular science activity substantively and organizationally coordinated with other social organizations. The job of providing broad and discriminating economic education also gets much help from the widely available printed or audio-visual aids. Slide shows and other visual means can make party and mass propaganda more vivid, impressive, cogent and also more effective in emotional respects. It is therefore important to make a greater use of all these means in the schools of socialist work, the lecturers' councils and the consultation bases. Party headquarters constantly ought to direct propagandists, seminar and study group leaders and discussion leaders toward them.

Many party kreis executive boards have had good experiences in developing economic mass propaganda with volunteer working teams. They help spread effective forms and methods through analyses and surveys in the enterprises.

This gives greater substance to the principle of using the various forms, means and methods of ideological work meaningfully and in accordance with their specific potentials for taking effect, so as to reach great effectiveness. These working teams help carry over the best methods to other enterprises. From time to time they confer with party secretaries, plant directors and chairmen of enterprise trade union headquarters, and at times they support the setting up of consultation bases and cabinets directly. In the management and planning of ideological work by kreis headquarters, accurately aligned and coordinated, the volunteer working teams will continue to be of help in the successful solution of the economic tasks and in the ideological education within the work collectives.

The level and the effect at depth of economic mass propaganda will also in the future depend on how much preparation the ones working in this field will get from membership meetings and in the party study year, on the ways in which they acquire sound knowledge and how they familiarize themselves through information and argumentation for their work of political indoctrination and the daily talks on the job. Educational work in the party is no end in itself. It must be beamed at those working people with whom the party members work closely and trustingly together at the job. There are excellent opportunities for this precisely in the 1967/77 party study year which, according to the Politburo decision of 8 June 1976, will be structured along a unified subject schedule in all circles and seminars. Important impulses for economic mass propaganda will be derived from the topic of the first circle evening in October. The topic is entitled "The Ninth SED Congress on the further shaping of the developed socialist society and the creation of fundamental preconditions for the gradual transition to communism." That also applies to the topics that deal with the continuation of the political course of the main task, the further development of the material-technical base, the tasks of agriculture, forestry and the foodstuffs industry, the closer interlinking of our economy with the economies of the USSR and the other states in the socialist community and the deepening of socialist economic integration.

Knowledge acquired has to be applied to the solution of practical tasks. The communists must set examples for others so that their political-moral attitudes inform the further shaping of socialist thought and actions on the part of all working people. "Wherever a communist works and lives -- he will consistently advocate the realization of the main task and actively, and by example, further creative initiative, a noble attitude toward work and public property and all socialist modes of thought and conduct."⁷

FOOTNOTES

1. Comrade Erich Honecker, "Bericht des Zentralkomitees der Sozialistischen Einheitspartei Deutschlands an den IX. Parteitag der SED" (SED Central Committee Report to the Ninth SED Congress), Dietz publishing house, Berlin, 1976, p 43.
2. Ibid., p 31.

3. V. I. Lenin, "Speech at the All-Russian Conference of the Commissions for Political-Cultural Enlightenment at the Gouvernement and Rayon Departments for Public Education," "Werke" (Works), Vol 31, Dietz publishing house, Berlin, 1959, p 365.
4. V. I. Lenin, "How To Organize Competition," "Werke," Vol 26, Dietz publishing house, Berlin, 1961, p 402.
5. Comrade Erich Honecker, op. cit., p 71.
6. Ibid., p 115.
7. "Programm der Sozialistischen Einheitspartei Deutschlands" (SED Program), Dietz publishing house, Berlin, 1976, p 67.

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FIRST COMPREHENSIVE MARXIST-LENINIST HISTORY ATLAS PUBLISHED

East Berlin EINHEIT in German Vol 31 No 8, Aug 76 signed to press 12 Jul 76 pp 953-956

[Review by Dr Richard Lakowski, senior research assistant, GDR Military History Institute: "Atlas zur Geschichte in zwei Bänden" (History Atlas in Two Volumes); published by Central Institute for History, GDR Academy of Sciences, and VEB Hermann Haack Geographisch-Kartographische Anstalt, Gotha/Leipzig; Vol 1, 1973; Vol 2, 1975]

[Text] The History Atlas -- the first comprehensive Marxist-Leninist cartographic work in German -- is a collective project in the best sense of the word. The editorial commission led by Comrade Prof Dr Lothar Berthold has the distinction of having elaborated the conceptual principles for this cartographic work. Under its scientific direction the various maps also were produced. It had to face the certainly not easy task of coordinating the work of 200 social scientists in the various disciplines and close to 80 map editors, cartographers and draftsmen. A special point should have to be made of the participation, along with many well-known GDR historians, of associates of VEB Hermann Haack, in drawing maps and making their own creative contribution of translating the text worked up by the social scientists into a scientific compendium of maps.

With the two volumes of the History Atlas, the editors had given themselves the task "to illustrate the inevitable advance and victory of socialism by the inevitability of social development, mainly the inevitable sequence of forms of society throughout history" (Preface, Vol 1). The editorial commission and authors have deliberately designed the History Atlas from the standpoint of the working class, of historical progress, through which they, in particular, have come out with an atlas of great scientific and political persuasiveness, genuinely enriching our means and possibilities in the political-ideological struggle today.

The approximately 450 maps it contains comprise the whole period from when man first appeared in history to the years 1971/72. Extra diagrams support the basic contentions and add to the wealth of information. Insets specify and deepen the topics of the main maps.

Even the introductory material in both volumes -- on geology and the beginnings of human history, the development of the picture of the earth and of the productive forces and of space travel -- stimulates the reader's thought and curiosity. The first volume begins with a diagram on the emergence and development of man and human society up to the end of the Ice Age and closes with a map of Russia from February to October 1917. In the second volume, the first map deals with the Great Socialist October Revolution, the last one, with the Warsaw Pact, CEMA and the socialist community of states. The focal point of the first volume is the formation of the class societies and the struggle for social progress. The focal point of the second volume is the profound transformation in the history of mankind taking place in the present epoch, the transition from capitalism to socialism at a world scale.

The authors sought to present the course of history in its complexity and variety by means of cartography. In the cartographic presentation of the exploiter societies, they mainly have shown "the development of the class struggle as the decisive impulse to social progress and the creative role of the popular masses, especially the working class and its revolutionary party" (Preface, Vol 2), without ignoring the policy of the ruling classes.

Thus a compendium of maps has been created that illumines the actual history of the nations, which places it in opposition to those of bourgeois provenance. Recall F. W. Putzger's Historical World Atlas which was first published in 1878. It has gone to over 90 editions and served to educate generations of students in the sense of bourgeois ideology. The Historical World Atlas has always represented the interests of the ruling reactionary forces of bourgeois society. Typical of that also is that its last edition offers next to nothing about such themes as the labor movement, the 1848 Revolution and the November Revolution.

Most revealing in this regard are also, for example, its maps that are dealing with the development of Africa. For example, in its 25th "expanded and revised" edition of 1901, that is, after the start of the epoch of imperialism, the Historical World Atlas on its page 40b shows the "division of Africa" including the loot made by German imperialism without even mentioning the peoples living on that continent. And even the 42nd edition of 1920 is based on the same idea of the so-called "colonial" activity of imperialism, only that the imperialist division of Africa is presented at greater detail. And then, in the 59th edition of 1942, during the fascist dictatorship, we find represented the claim by German imperialism to the German areas in Africa which its imperialist competitors had taken away in the outcome of World War I marked as "German trust territories." And nothing basic has changed in that even in the anniversary edition of 1969. There now is a double map for the development of Africa, to be sure, but there is no mention at all of the liberation struggle by the peoples of Africa which is so important for the development of this continent. Nothing but a small inset represents the political division after World War II. In opposition to that stands the scientific and political information in the History Atlas. Its volume 1 shows on page 117 the imperialist division of

Africa but also the suppressed peoples' liberation struggle against the colonial yoke out of which emerged the young African national states.

Greatly effective in disseminating the bourgeois concept of history among the masses has been the widespread cartographic representation of history in pocketbook series, which is cheap. We may mention as example the "dtv - Atlas zur Weltgeschichte" (World History Atlas), published in Munich. It had its first edition in 1964, its seventh, in 1971. It does not mention at all, for example, one of the greatest anti-feudal revolts of the German people during the Middle Ages, the Stellinga Revolt. Instead, it likes to make a big deal of the great to-do by the rulers, their wars and conquests in the finest detail.

It testifies to the great power of conviction behind Marxist-Leninist historiography that the haute bourgeois FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG on 18 May 1974 warned that the "FRG social science teachers, who all too readily like to work with books from the GDR in the first place, may soon have a good reason to rely on, and recommend, the History Atlas out of Gotha."

Marxist-Leninist historians and cartographers have set themselves the goal to represent in their maps "the great class battles, mainly the revolutions but, inseparably connected with them, also the economy, the political-territorial changes, but also the spiritual-cultural processes" (Preface, Vol 1). For the very best reasons the entire spectrum of possible forms of class conflict in the exploiter society is taken into account. And thus not only the well-known events like the Spartakus Revolt, the Stellinga Revolt or the early bourgeois revolution in Germany have been represented, but equally much the urban popular movements and those in religious garb which played an important role in the Middle Ages.

One of the special merits of the History Atlas is that it has successfully embedded the history of the German people in the process of world history. This does justice to the fact that "there has always been a lively interchange between the revolutionary and progressive events and accomplishments of German history and the decisive events and accomplishments of humanity's progress, as it is shown today -- on a higher level of historic development -- between the social development processes in our socialist state and in the socialist world system as a whole."¹ At the same time, the cartographic evidence that, for example in the 10th century, not only in Europe and Asia but in Africa as well states did exist, will revise the partly still held inadequate notions about the course of history in extra-European regions of the world.

The maps supply the history of the labor movement with a great weight of evidence. That applies to the cartographic representation of the life and work of the founders of Marxism-Leninism and their popularization up to the present, the origins of the workers' parties and the struggle of the working class prior to and in the course of revolutions. Here too the elaboration of the interconnections between national and international developments belongs among the special distinction of these maps.

No less successful are the maps on economic history in both volumes. They offer a wealth of concrete data in a clear and well organized form which can provide a valuable documentary basis for research, teaching and propaganda. Most attractive are those maps here that deal with special problems which often are of a complicated nature. Examples are the representation of the Prussian process of capitalist agricultural development or metropolitan growth during the time of imperialism prior to 1914.

The second volume contains the maps on the formation and development of the three main revolutionary currents, the socialist world system, the international labor movement, and the peoples' national liberation movement. The editors did not succumb to the temptation of reducing the revolutionary world process overly much to armed struggles. While military operations can be attractively be represented on a map, they yet only constitute one of the various forms of the class struggle. While the workers' armed struggle has been adequately portrayed, other maps have been added which are concerned with the other most important forms of proletarian struggle, such as maps on the political, economic and administrative development of the USSR or on the struggle by the working people in the main imperialist countries during the '20's and '30's.

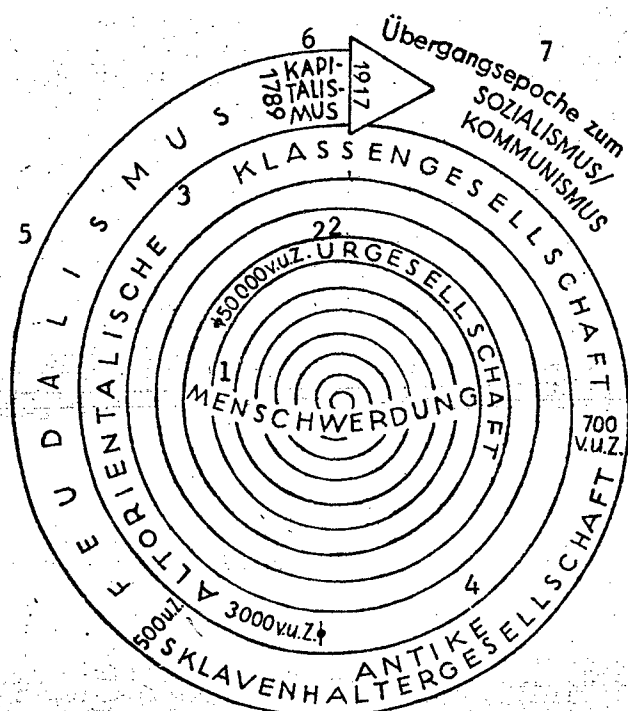
Not all important historical events and problems can of course be represented even in a comprehensive History Atlas which is meant to serve as an important reference work. That is not possible for the simple reason that social processes are most multy-layered and highly differentiated processes. The editors were thus well advised in strictly relying, in their selection of maps and subjects, on the conceptual guidelines set down in the introductory remarks. Their concentration on basic evidence conforms to the nature of the atlas as a general reference work.

This is a task which the History Atlas could meet better still if one were to see to it in subsequent editions that the legibility will not suffer from showing too much detail on some maps. That applies to the maps on the wars of intervention against the young Soviet state, on the attack against the Soviet Union and the destruction of the fascist armed forces, which on one page have a wealth of detail on the main map and up to as many as three insets with individual captions and diagrams. Proper changes would improve their legibility. It would eventually facilitate the use of the atlas outside of research. After all, this cartographic work is meant to serve not only the history scholars but also the propagandists and party workers, teachers and students, as an indispensable reference work. That becomes especially evident in the maps for the time after 1945 contained in the History Atlas. Here facts and data are represented which to a large extent affect our current struggle directly. Most of that has thus far not been available to such a degree of representation. That is true, for example, of the Korean people's patriotic war of liberation, the Cuban Revolution, the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people, and the imperialist aggression against the Arab nations. Furthermore, the maps include subjects of most recent historic events such as CEMA's assistance to the young national states of Asia and Africa, the development of relations among the main imperialist countries, and their internal development and their policy vis-a-vis third countries.

Of great interest are the maps that are dealing with the socialist community of states and the history of our socialist fatherland, the GDR. The survey provided for the development of the Soviet Union and of the other fraternal socialist countries and of the development of their relations to each other provides a good orientation for study and much stimulation for dealing further with these matters. Carefully prepared also are the facts on the history of the GDR. That is of valuable aid to our young people who have no direct experience of the early years of our development, to whom the history of their homeland is a subject of study. And the more experienced citizens of our country can use the History Atlas for properly relating their own personal experiences to the process of our social development. That concerns such matters as the struggle for the unification between the KPD and the SPD resulting in the SED or the uneven developments in what were then the German zones of occupation, the splitting of Germany by the imperialists but also the emergence and growth of the GDR and its development into a sovereign socialist state. Maps such as that on the socioeconomic transformation of what was formerly a landed estate into a socialist village, on the major emphasis aspects of the socialist economy in the GDR, and on cultural and educational questions provide us with knowledge that will assist us in better managing the tasks of today and tomorrow.

A very detailed and comprehensive subject, name and place-name index facilitates the use of the atlas. Carefully prepared legends plus their explanations help understand what is on the maps. The method used for placing references at the lower margins of maps to establish connections with other maps is worth mentioning. That helps understand the time sequences and subjective relations in the historical process.

The editors and the large collective of associates have by this cartographic work enriched Marxist-Leninist cartography and made an effective contribution to socialist consciousness formation. One should wish for further editions of the History Atlas so that as many interested persons as possible will be able to benefit from its use.



8 Der Anteil der Spirale
für die Menschwerdung und Urgesellschaft
ist auf $\frac{1}{8}$ reduziert.

- (1) The Appearance of Man in History
- (2) 50000 BC: Primitive Society
- (3) 3000 BC: Ancient Oriental Class Society
- (4) 700 BC: Slave-holding Society of Antiquity
- (5) 500 AD: Feudalism
- (6) 1789 AD: Capitalism
- (7) 1917 AD: Epoch of Transition to Socialism/Communism
- (8) The proportions for the appearance of man in history and for the primitive society in the diagram have been reduced to one-eighth of their proper length.

FOOTNOTES

1. Ernst Diehl, "On Research Problems on the History of the German People and the History of the GDR," WISSENSCHAFTLICHE MITTEILUNGEN DER HISTORIKER-GESELLSCHAFT DER DDR, No 2, 1975, p 7.

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EAST GERMANY

SUMMARIES OF OTHER MAJOR 'EINHEIT' ARTICLES

East Berlin EINHEIT in German Vol 31 No 8, Aug 76 signed to press 12 Jul 76
"For Documentation" addendum

Our Material-Technical Base Must Be Further Strengthened

[Summary of article by Prof Dr Claus Kroemke, staff member, GDR Council of Ministers; pp 860-869]

[Text] Proceeding from the Ninth Party Congress decisions, the strengthening of the material-technical base is being presented as the fundamental precondition for further social development, especially for the consistent realization of the main task, with particular consideration given to the role of socialist industry. Stress is laid on the complex approach, and it is also being demonstrated how the strengthening of the material-technical base is reached by means of our intensification and how the conditions are being structured for men's increasingly more creative and effective work.

Material-Technical Base and Social Progress

[Summary of article by Prof Dr Harry Nick, program director for Political Economy of Socialism, SED Central Committee's Institute for Social Sciences; pp 870-878]

[Text] The perfecting of our material-technical base as component of our party's social policy aimed at the well-being of all the people. What is the direction in which the material-technical base is being developed together with the further shaping of the developed socialist society and with an eye to the communist future in order to ensure the high productivity needed and the further shaping of the socialist character of labor? Scientific-technical progress as the main lever for the further development of the material-technical base.

Socialist Agriculture's Material-Technical Base Must Be Further Perfected

[Summary of article by Dr Dieter Buddrus, science assistant to deputy chairman of GDR State Planning Commission; Werner Reibetanz and Claus Stein, graduate economists, and Guenther Zashcke, graduate engineer, all three science candidates in Political Economy of Socialism, SED Central Committee's Institute for Social Sciences; pp 879-884. For related information see JPRS 67594, No 1499 of TRANSLATIONS ON EASTERN EUROPE, ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL AFFAIRS, 14 Jul 76, pp 9-23]

[Text] Further socialist intensification in GDR agriculture and the gradual transition to industrialized production connected with it make it necessary for the material-technical base of socialist agriculture to be perfected. Which advances have been achieved here since the Eighth Party Congress, and what new demands follow from the Ninth Party Congress decisions? How does a further strengthening of the material-technical base help a systematic and harmonious integration of agricultural development within economic development?

Norwegian Communists Facing Great Tasks

[Summary of article by Martin Gunnar Knutsen, chairman, Communist Party of Norway; pp 885-893]

[Text] Proceeding from the unequivocal rejection made at its 15th Party Congress of the attempt of merging the Communist Party of Norway in the Socialist Party of the Left, which emerged out of a leftist election alliance, the party chairman worked out the long-range plans and tasks of the Norwegian communists. He vividly describes the struggle for elevating the ideological and political level and the party's specific contours and also tackles the basic problems of the peace struggle, trade union work, the struggle for unity among the leftist forces, the struggle against the crisis and monopoly power and of proletarian internationalism.

Expansion of International Monopolies--A Characteristic of the Continued Intensification of Capitalism's General Crisis

[Summary of article by Prof Dr Horst Heininger, main department chief, GDR Institute for International Politics and Economics; pp 925-933]

[Text] The expansion of the international monopolies has led to an enormous concentration of economic and political power. It reflects the efforts imperialism is making toward expanding its power potential and regaining its lost positions. At the same time, however, it deepens the contradictions of capitalism and further sharpens its general crisis. The altered international power ratio, decisively in favor of socialism, confines the international monopolies in their ability to act and thus creates more favorable conditions for the struggle by all forces in the international revolutionary movement against the dangers coming from the monopolies.

The Dynamism of the Socialist Economy

[Summary of article by Dr Leonid Abalkin, published in Moscow KOMMUNIST in Russian No 7, May 76 pp 28-37; condensed German version in this EINHEIT issue, pp 934-940]

[Text] The dynamism in the economy of the Soviet Union is marked by the intensification of social production on the basis of accelerated scientific-technical progress. This dynamic economic development expresses itself in the speed and scope of absolute production growth. The intensive growth factors are playing the decisive role in this. All reserves must be tapped. That also includes the further perfecting of management, planning, stimulation and economic cost accounting.

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